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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-006 *10 January 1995*

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Jan

LD1001065895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0643 GMT 10 Jan 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—Evaluations of the situation in and around the Chechen Republic are one of the principal topics in today's Russian press.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs an interview with Salambek Khadzhiyev, prime minister of the Chechen Government of National Rebirth.

Khadzhiyev spoke of his cabinet's priorities: "To create a system of aid to the refugees, to bring together a number of leaders, primarily directors of factories and industrial facilities for them to examine ways to restore them and, as soon as hostilities are brought to an end, to begin to rehabilitate the city economy to provide people with water, electricity and heating."

"Under the guidance of the Russian Government, we have worked out a resolution on the economic rehabilitation of Chechnya—a programme which covers all aspects and which will cost about 1,000,000 million roubles, according to tentative estimates".

Touching upon cooperation with the territorial administration of the federal executive power bodies, Khadzhiyev said: "We regard the territorial administration as Russian ministries' representation at the local level. Their task is to ensure contacts between our government and the Russian Government and expedite the decision-making process as much as possible".

Speaking about a future politico-administrative structure of Chechnya, Khadzhiyev said that "only the people of Chechnya may decide an issue concerning a political set-up. We all—the opposition forces of Chechnya—have agreed that Chechnya will be a parliamentary republic".

IZVESTIA runs an article about the costs of the Chechen war.

The newspaper's correspondent writes that, according to estimates by the Russian ministry of economics, "expenditure on the restoration of housing, engineering and other facilities may amount to 2.3-2.7 trillion roubles in the current year depending on the intensity of military operations. Probable expenditure on the rehabilitation of the oil and gas facilities was estimated separately and will run at 700-800 billion roubles at least".

"In any case the most reserved estimates of economic loosses in the current year are within the range of 3.1-3.5 trillion roubles," IZVESTIA points out.

The Finance Ministry estimates are close to those of the Economics Ministry. A high-ranking source in the Finance Ministry told IZVESTIA that "if active military operations end in the coming weeks, the cost of the rehabilitation of industrial and other facilities, the provision of allowances and other payments to the population of freed territories may total 3.5 trillion roubles."

IZVESTIA also gives approximate estimates made by experts of Russian ministries about military spending on the Chechnya operation depending on the development of the situation.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) special correspondent in Chechnya writes from the scene of events that Lieutenant-General Stanislav Kavun, deputy commander of Russian Interior-Ministry troops, "has confirmed instances of the presence of Afghan and Ukrainian militants and Abkhazian mercenaries in Chechnya. The general also confirmed the involvement of Baltic marksmen in combat actions".

The correspondent writes that it is unlikely that they are attracted to this war by "ideological unity with the leaders of unlawful formations. According to intelligence data, mercenaries get up to 1,000 U.S. dollars per 24 hours in addition to bonuses for the head of each Russian officer".

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'Vesti' Reports Carter Statement on Press, Chechnya

LD0901214095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today our editorial office received a statement from Jimmy Carter, former U.S. President and co-chairman of the Radio and Television Policy Commission. The document says, I quote: I am very interested in freedom of the press being observed in the Chechen Republic, even in conditions of combat actions. Independent television stations must be allowed, except in cases where the information causes direct harm to Russian troops, to continue to report what they find at the sites of events, even if this information is in contradiction to information released by official sources. End of quote.

Justice Minister Briefs OSCE Figure on Chechen Operation

LD0901164995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1619 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 9 TASS—The Russian Minister of Justice, Valentin Kovalev, met with Istvan Gyarmati, a representative of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in Moscow on Monday, the State Duma press service said.

Kovalev informed the guest about the situation in the Chechen Republic and measures taken to restore constitutional law and order there, the press service said.

Both sides reaffirmed their positions that Chechnya is part of the Russian Federation and stressed the need to strictly observe the principles and norms of international law. They also pointed to the inadmissibility of separatism and encroachments on the territorial integrity of Russia.

Kovalev, who is also head of a special commission set up to monitor human rights and freedoms in Chechnya, and the OSCE envoy agreed to develop humanitarian contact between the commission and OSCE structures, the press service said.

Security Chief Holds Talks With Russian Counterpart

NC0901154395 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2030 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Davit Shahnazarian, the Armenian president's ambassador on special missions and acting head of the State Directorate for National Security, met with Major General Anatoliy Safonov, acting head of the Russian Federation Counterintelligence Service, on 6 January in Moscow.

During the meeting, the sides expressed satisfaction at the conspicuous results already obtained in the course of the expanded cooperation between the special services of the two countries and examined the possibility of deepening cooperation in the struggle against the international narcotics business and terrorism and in other fields.

OSCE Envoy on Chechnya Rights Violations Talks

LD0901211195 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1830 GMT 9 Jan 95

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia would like the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] to contribute to the resolution of the Chechen crisis. The Hungarian OSCE envoy, Ambassador Istvan Gyarmati, is holding talks on this matter in Moscow. Ambassador Istvan Gyarmati told Newsreel on the phone that the Russian Government is requesting the organization's assistance primarily in the investigation into the violation of human rights and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

[Begin recording] [Gyarmati] Russia obviously does not want to turn the crisis into an international one. Both we and the Russians think that the political resolution of the crisis should be based on the Russian Constitution. They can see an opportunity, however, for cooperation in investigations into the violation of human rights and in redressing these violations as well as in deliveries of humanitarian aid and other matters.

[Unidentified correspondent] When will you be satisfied with these talks? What is the most you can achieve?

[Gyarmati] I will be satisfied if I can return with specific agreements, which would make the settlement, or the OSCE's contribution to the settlement of the crisis possible.

[Correspondent] What is the chance for it now?

[Gyarmati] I am not more pessimistic or optimistic than I was when I arrived here. I think that there is a chance for it, but it will be rather difficult to find it. [end recording]

Chechnya Triggers Freezing of Western Investment Programs

MM1001115795 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 3

[Article by correspondent Pavel Bogomolov: "The West Analyzes the Costs of the Chechen Campaign: The Price of a Gross Miscalculation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 9 Nov—The news that the Commission of the European Communities has shelved the question of enacting the preferential trade agreement between the European Union and Russia is far more unpleasant for the Kremlin than one might immediately have supposed. At the time, namely the end

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of last week, some commentators thought that the West's collective anti-Yeltsin measure was purely humanitarian in nature: If you carry out the merciless bombardment of Groznyy, don't count on the lifting of customs barriers or the extension of the open European-wide economic area to.... However, given that Russia is so huge and full of contradictions that no concessions are capable of encouraging it, the revocation of those concessions initially went almost unnoticed.

However, in actual fact it is difficult to find in the swift-moving chronicle of international events anything more impressive than this angry EU statement because it expresses far from just compassion for the victims of the protracted bloodshed in Chechnya; far more important is the fact that the West has for the first time realized that the unfortunate Russian economy is doomed for many years to come to be not a reformist-minded, compliant economic organism for the IMF and other foreign centers of influence but a purely centralized, mobilized, quota-fixed, and wounded economic organism beset with all manner of burdens. And that being so, neither Chernomyrdin, Gaydar, Luzhkov, Yavlinskiy, or anyone else will be able to gear the country up for the next round of market and monetary experiments. But if the West finds the matter so deplorable, there is no point in its extending the lifeline of various kinds of "aid" to the Kremlin.

And it is not being extended. The aforementioned agreement between Russia and the EU has been postponed. A $6-billion loan from the IMF has been called into doubt. One investment program after another is being frozen. And all this forms part of the price being paid for the campaign against Chechnya. And the price is such that henceforth the Russian economy will not just reel from its own weakness—it is down on its knees. And perhaps nowhere is this seen with such clarity as in the City of London—the world's biggest center of transactions in money and raw materials and stock-exchange deals.

British analysts confirm that each new day of operations in Chechnya takes at least 18 million pounds or approximately 100 billion rubles [R] out of the Russian exchequer. Restoring the production capacity, infrastructure, and housing destroyed in the refractory republic will cost at least 540 million pounds. And without that the oil and gas complex of not just the region but the whole country will falter—the Novorossiysk outlet for the export of fuel and raw materials, which is a lifeline for the state, will be blocked. Worst of all is the fact that there are no means of reducing the horrifying cost of the tragedy in the North Caucasus: In discrediting ourselves before the whole world we are already paying the highest price of all for our soldiers' work.

Kozyrev's Visit to Japan Not 'Rescheduled'

LD1001101295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 10 Jan 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—Russia's Foreign Ministry wants Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Japan to take place and has called on Tokyo to work jointly on filling the visit with specific content, according to ranking Russian diplomats who are directly engaged in handling problems in relations with Japan.

The Russian diplomats said this in connection with today's press conference held by Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono who, according to a report from the Japanese capital, announced that Moscow had notified Tokyo about the impossibility of Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Japan in January because of the domestic political situation in Russia.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told ITAR-TASS today that it was wrong to speak about "rescheduling" Kozyrev's visit to Tokyo because no previous agreement on the date of the visit had been reached. This makes it wrong to speak about "postponing" or "rescheduling" the visit. According to Panov, Moscow and Tokyo have yet to set the date for it.

Another ranking Russian diplomat told ITAR-TASS today that he had met Japan's Ambassador to Russia Koji Watanabe during the last ten days of December. The ambassador said Japan proposed that Andrey Kozyrev pay his visit to Japan in the middle of January, but he was told that "unfortunately, this would not work because of the minister's schedule".

"We did not associate this with the internal political situation in Russia in any way," the Russian diplomat said.

The Foreign Ministry officials made it clear that Moscow was not going to dramatise the situation around the date of Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Japan as do the Japanese mass media and some officials.

At the end of last week, one of the leaders of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, who asked not to be identified in the press, even said that unless the visit took place in January, Japan would have to "rethink its policy with regard to Russia".

"We want the minister's visit to take place," the Russian diplomat said. According to him, both sides should now think "what the visit must be filled with". He noted that although both sides have their own ideas and plans, they have yet to sit down at the same table to work out a detailed plan for Andrey Kozyrev's visit.

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Political Issues

Kovalev, Chernomyrdin Discuss Halt to Fighting

LD0901132595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A telephone conversation took place today between human rights commssioner Sergey Kovalev, who is in Nazran, and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Sergey Kovalev told us they talked about the plan for a temporary halt to military activities in Chechnya and the possibility of an exchange of prisoners of war. They were unable to finish their conversation, because the line was broken off for unknown reasons.

Chernomyrdin Requests Truce Talks

LD0901173395 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin has instructed the power ministers to begin talks with the Chechen side on a truce for 48 hours. Our radio station was told this by Sergey Kovalev, the plenipotentiary for human rights, following his telephone conversation with the prime minister.

'Official' Figures Note Russian Dead in Chechnya

LD0901153095 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Jan 95

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to official figures, 256 Russian servicemen have died to date in the fighting in Chechnya. A spokesman for the infantry troops headquarters told INTERFAX that, according to official figures, up until 1800 hours today 116 servicemen belonging to the infantry, motor rifle, and tank troops had died since troops were introduced into Chechnya on 11 December. Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin, commander of airborne troops, has said that in the course of combat action in Chechnya about 100 servicemen belonging to the airborne troops have died. And the main directorate under the commander of internal troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has also reported that up until today 40 servicemen belonging to the internal troops have died in Chechnya.

Press Service Issues Status Update

LD0901182195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1732 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Jan—ITAR-TASS received the following statement today from the press service of the Russian Federation government:

"During the course of the day, the troops continued to blockade and eliminate illegal armed formations. Roadblocks have been mounted between Military Compound Number Two and Military Compound Number 86, as well as along Karl Marx Street and at the town market. The intersection west of the town of Argun has also been taken under control.

"Despite the increased numbers of federal troops, illegal armed formations continue to show stubborn resistance, using the tactics of small groups and the system of centers of defense.

"Work continues on detecting and thwarting the activity of radio hams transmitting information on Russian troops to illegal armed formations.

"Radio intelligence in Mozdok has detected six individuals in possession of unregistered radio equipment.

"Internal troops have taken part in guarding communications lines, accompanying convoys with humanitarian aid, and reopening the Mozdok-Chervlennaya section of the railway.

"Over the last 24 hours, more than 500 irregulars have been eliminated and four vehicles supplying ammunition have been destroyed."

Yerin Expresses Condolences to General's Family

LD0901132295 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1152 GMT 9 Jan 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A requiem took place at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia today for Militia General Viktor Vorobev who died in Chechnya.

Internal Affairs Minister Yerin, who spoke at the ceremony, expressed his condolences to the family of the dead man and noted that General Vorobev had died in the execution of his professional duty.

Poll Shows Many Muscovites Oppose Chechen War

LD0901175495 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Public Opinion Study Center has held a poll of Muscovites' views on the situation in Chechnya: 47 percent of those polled said that the decision to use force was wrong and harmful. One third of those polled think it was necessary to use force against Dudayev's regime, but it was done very ineptly and with unjustified casualties. Eight percent of those polled in the capital fully support the actions of the government and military. Thirteen percent were unable to answer the questions.

Government Offers Dudayev 'Last Chance'

LD1001063095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0600 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 10 ITAR-TASS—The press service of the Russian Federal Government has released the following statement today:

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"The appeal made on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation on instruction from the president of the Russian Federation to participants in the illegal armed formations on the territory of the Chechen Republic is yet another goodwill gesture on the part of the Russian leadership, another attempt at the bringing back to their senses of those who are defending Dudayev's criminal regime with arms in their hands.

"Despite remaining points of resistance, the defeat of Dudayev's forces had become clear by the end of January 9th. The humaneness of the proposals put forth by the government on instructions from the president of the Russian Federation is an expression of the will and hope of all the progressive, democratic forces of the country, all the Russian people, first of all of the mothers, fathers and relatives of those soldiers and officers of the troops of the Interior and Defence Ministries and the Borderguard Department who are doing their duty on Chechen territory and ensuring the integrity of the Russian state.

"In its appeal, the country's supreme leadership is motivated by the desire to put an end to the bloodshed and try and settle the Chechen issue by peaceful means.

"The president and government, who are creating conditions and providing substantial guarantees for the return of the people drawn into military confrontation to peaceful labor in their home places, have every right to expect the entire Chechen people to act with good sense and wisdom.

"Russia's leaders also count on the good sense of the participants in the armed formations who were involved in the fratricidal conflict as a result of Dudayev's adventurist policy.

"Unconditional compliance with the terms set forth in the appeal must be seen as the last chance for Dudayev and his entourage and as a safe way to peace on the Chechen land for those who have been forced to do the dictator's criminal will".

Government Proposes Chechnya Cease-Fire

LD0901221595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2155 GMT 9 Jan 95

["Urgent"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Jan—The Government of Russia has conveyed to ITAR-TASS the following appeal:

Appeal to the participants of the illegal armed formations on the territory of the Chechen Republic;

In order to prevent further bloodshed and to ensure conditions that the settlement in Chechnya be put on a peaceful footing, the Government of the Russian Federation, acting on instructions from the president of the Russian Federation, appeals to the participants of illegal armed formations on the territory of the Chechen Republic with the following proposals:

From 0800 on 10 January to 0800 on 12 January 1995, to cease fire, leave their positions and combat equipment, lay down their arms, and return the persons captured during the armed clashes.

The Government of the Russian Federation guarantees free passage of the members of illicit armed formations, who have voluntarily laid down their arms, to their places of permanent residence, a return to peaceful labor, and scrupulous observance of the resolution of the State Duma of the Russian Federation of 13 December 1994 No 386-1-GD "On declaring an amnesty vis-a-vis persons having taken part in unlawful deeds connected with the armed conflicts in the North Caucasus."

The Russian Federation government expresses the hope that the members of illegal armed formations will show sense and will move half way toward meeting its proposals in order for peace and calm to be restored in the Chechen Republic.

The Russian Federation government has given the necessary instructions to the federal troops' command on ceasing fire within the same time limits and on guaranteeing order in implementing the proposals set out in this appeal.

[Signed] Government of the Russian Federation on the instructions of the president of the Russian Federation

[Date] Moscow, 9 January 1995

Chechen Leader Calls Cease-Fire 'Trick'

AU1001083195 Paris AFP in English GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GRoznyy, Russia, Jan 10 (AFP)—The head of the general staff of Chechen separatist forces Aslan Maskhadov on Tuesday described Moscow's offer of a 48-hour ceasefire as "a trick".

In an interview with AFP inside the besieged presidential palace, he accused the Russian military of violating the ceasefire agreement reached by the warring sides late Monday.

Russian forces resumed shelling of the centre of Groznyy on Tuesday, in violation of a unilateral ceasefire offered by the Russian Government starting from 8:00 a.m. (0500 GMT).

Yeltsin Names Shumeyko, Rybkin To Council

LD1001100095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0925 GMT 10 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed both speakers of the Russian parliament as voting members of his Security Council thus amending the provisions on the powerful decision-making body as requested in the letter of both speakers of January 5.

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Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin, chairmen of the upper and lower chambers of the Russian parliament, were appointed as permanent members of the Security Council, the presidential press service said on Tuesday quoting a decree of Boris Yeltsin.

The speakers of the Federation Council and of the State Duma were introduced into the influential body which o'kayed the use of force in Chechnya as non-voting members last May. Only the permanent members have the voting right in the council.

Shumeyko and Rybkin said in the letter to the president that amendments to the provisions were necessary because of "the development of the situation in Chechnya and around it and in the light of the influence of the chambers of the Federal Assembly and personally of the chairmen of the State Duma and the Federation Council on the issues of home, foreign and military policies in the sphere of ensuring the security of Russia".

The speakers proposed to amend the outdated article of the provisions adopted in June 1992 which said that the Security Council, besides the prime minister, the council secretary, as well as members appointed by the president also includes the vice-president and deputy speaker of the former Supreme Soviet which was dissolved by the president in September 1993. The post of the vice-president was dropped in the new Russian Constitution adopted after former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy headed an armed rebellion against the president which was suppressed by tanks in October 1993.

The speakers proposed that the permanent members of the Security Council include the prime minister, the chairmen of both parliament chambers and the secretary of the council.

The provisions also said that the Security Council coordinated its work with the former Supreme Soviet. The speakers instead proposed to fix that the Security Council coordinates its work with defence and security committees of the State Duma and the Federation Council.

The Tuesday decree of the president brought the provisions on the Security Council in correspondence with the new realities of the Russian political life.

General on 'Demoralized Army'

MM1001103195 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant General Nikolay Tsymbal: "A Demoralized Army Cannot Be Combat Capable. That Is the Belief of Lieutenant General Nikolay Tsymbal, Who Is Well Acquainted With the Mentality of Soldiers from the Great Patriotic, Vietnam, and Afghan Wars"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] No army in the world could fight in the atmosphere produced by the attitude toward it that we have now. A commander may give an order, but a soldier heeds the appeals of the supreme legislative body. The supreme commander in chief orders a cessation of bombing. And soldiers and junior officers, aware of this, see that the bombings are still going on. A demoralized army cannot be combat capable. The Army was demoralized long before Chechnya by sluggish reform or, to be more precise, the wrangling over the nature of reform. The involvement in last October's events was not the best of lessons for it. Then came the campaign to ascertain whether corruption exists within the supreme command, the depths of which have not even been plumbed; there can be nothing worse in this situation.

Meanwhile this demoralized army moreover is procuring potatoes for itself, building housing, and has no opportunity—even material—to boost the level of combat training. Pilots for instance spend in the air one-third of the time that they should do by norm. We can see the results in Chechnya. When they bomb the enemy's weapon positions, they hit the hospital, the bazaar, the oil storage facility....

The Army's tactics in this conflict do not withstand any criticism. The main task of the operation, as you know, is to disarm bandit formations. What are the Air Force and tanks doing here? If Groznyy is taken, will the main task automatically become feasible?

Since the Patriotic War, our Army has had experience of waging combat operations in urban conditions. We liberated Volgograd and took Koenigsberg and Berlin.... Let us assume that we have lost our experience and gotten rusty. But the power structures still have their legendary "Alfa" and "Vityaz," trained subunits of the Federal Counterintelligence Service, who are able to carry out their mission without destroying a city and without adding to the number of innocent casualties. Instead, as far as I can judge, we have an infamous operation that lacks even an integral plan. Military convoys are for some reason marking time on the approaches to the city and regrouping. Military commanders have not even worried about feeding soldiers. Nor about removing the dead and injured from the battlefield, something we made sure was done during the large-scale World War II operations. And the three leaders of the power structures are at the same time unconcernedly traveling backwards and forwards between Mozdok and Moscow. In the morning they are here and in the evening they are there for some reason or other.

The conclusions to be drawn regarding the Army in Groznyy are lamentable. Leaders of the power structures must bear responsibility for the failure of the operation no matter how it ends. The executive and legislature must also conclude that further procrastination with reform in the Army is inadmissible.

One Western newspaper produced roughly this headline for an article on the Chechen conflict: "Whether Russian Soldiers Like It or Not, This Is Not the Question Now. But Can They Fight?" I will discard the political context

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of this sentence. But the question does in effect sound extremely topical for the Russian Army now.

Russia's Choice Member on 'Acute' Coup Danger

AU0901123695 Berlin DIE TAGESZEITUNG in German 5 Jan 95 p 10

[Interview with Leonid Gozman, executive committee member of Russia's Choice, by Klaus-Helge Donath; place and date not given: "'Danger of a Coup is Acute'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Donath] What is the reason for the army's poor performance in Groznyy?

[Gozman] There are three possible reasons: First: The entire operation has suffered from a severe lack of coordination. The commanders in the various ministries are competing with each other; not in order to do their jobs well, but in order not to do it at all. Second: It is clear that even with special units you cannot defeat an entire nation that is resisting. Such a war is very difficult to win. Third: The threat to power in Moscow is considered so great that the country's leadership prefers to have special units very close.

[Donath] Is there still a chance for the war's most devastating effects on Russia's internal development to be warded off? Or will the logic of war automatically be followed by an authoritarian regime?

[Gozman] With the 100-percent defeat we have seen so far, the whole matter should be stopped and handled differently: by withdrawing troops and starting negotiations with Dudayev. After all, it is his victory. On the other hand, the Russians control large parts of Chechnya; Dudayev must take this into account as well. In view of this scenario Defense Minister Grachev should step down immediately. Just recently he sneered that only idiots would use tanks to wage war in a city. Or else, you could make the war escalate and kill everyone, level the city to the ground, in short, finish it off [English phrase given]. Groznyy has seen the heaviest air raids since World War II. I am concerned about reports that Chechnya is using chemical weapons. I do not believe that. Rather, these reports are used to prepare the ground for the Russian intervention. This must necessarily lead to a dictatorship in Russia; and, to me, that seems the real aim. It has never been about Chechnya, Dudayev, or anything like that. Nobody ever rules on his own. Not even Stalin, although it seemed as if he did from the outside. People like Interior Minister Yerin, Defense Minister Grachev, Yeltsin's bodyguard Korshakov, and other officers are all prepared to govern the country, according to what they understand by "leadership."

[Donath] The West is wriggling, it does not want to offend Yeltsin. It completely ignores the internal power aspect. Could pressure from the outside have an effect, or....

[Gozman] Restraint is the traditional course that the West has been taking vis-a-vis Russia. I think this is the wrong policy. Every time the West got involved it was for the country's good. Who in Russia could have any negative feelings about the West? Only those who hate it very much and have always detested anything to do with the West.

[Donath] What about the president?

[Gozman] Seeing Yeltsin only in the light of the past few days would be wrong. It was he, after all, who defended democracy and the freedom of the press in decisive moments. Also, he wants to be recognized by the West. That is why a negative and firm position by the West could prove very helpful.

[Donath] ...but Yeltsin has brought himself into complete discredit; even if he reformed himself, people would not trust him....

[Gozman] The government has suffered the worst defeat on the propaganda front. Yeltsin's prestige has never been so low; he is supported by 5 percent of the population. The public is against this war. In spite of scaremongering and attempts to incite hysteria by reports of anticipated Chechen terrorist attacks, nobody believes this propaganda. That is a success. People may not even be opposed to the war as such, but they are against it being conducted inefficiently. That is why they support a change in the policy on Chechnya. Whether this will benefit the liberal or radical forces, is difficult to say. The danger of a military coup is more than acute; it can happen tomorrow, the day after, or in a week or two. Nobody has any specific indications. But for the military, there is only one way to clear its name of the discredit: to declare those in power guilty.

[Donath] How is "Russia's Choice" mobilizing the public?

[Gozman] We are trying to establish as broad a base as possible against the war, regardless of people's political beliefs. We are also cooperating with the communists. The victims of the war urgently need protection. At the same time, we want to work toward fresh elections; our 225 constituencies are quite active. We must convene a special meeting of the Duma to push through a couple of constitutional amendments.

What is very important is the passing of a law offering security for those who have been actively involved in the war. Otherwise, Nationality Minister Yegorov will declare all Chechens criminals and have them shot.

Yabloko Sets up Political Movement, Elects Head

LD0901164595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1511 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 9, (INTERFAX)—A federal political movement YaBLoko [as received] has been set up by regional parties and organizations supporting Grigoriy Yavlinsky, chairman of a parliamentary group of the same name.

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The founding congress of the movement held at the end of the last week in the Moscow Region elected Yavlinsky the movement chairman. Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma International Affairs Committee, and Yuri Boldyrev, member of the Federation Council, will be his deputies.

YaBLoko described itself as democratic opposition.

The goals of the movement are those of the election bloc, set up in October 1993: movement for a law abiding rather than a crime-infested corrupt state, an efficient demonopolized market economy, formation of full-fledged civil society institutes, consolidating the state unity on the basis of federalism and inter-regional integration, and safety and well-being of the population.

Defense Ministry Seen To Favor Lebed's Removal

LD0901183295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, Jan 9 (INTERFAX)—The advocates of hard line in Chechnya want to have General Aleksandr Lebed removed from the command of the 14th Army, Moldovan national radio reported Monday.

A Russian Defense Ministry commission is, according to the report, expected to inspect the army units shortly. The commission will be empowered to sack Lebed, the radio reported.

The commission is said to be sent following Lebed's sharp criticism of the Russian leadership and the Defense Ministry.

Lebed himself declined to comment on the reasons for sending the commission.

Yeltsin, Lukashenka Discuss Closer Relations

LD0901174995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1724 GMT 9 Jan 95

[By BELINFORM correspondent Viktor Kuklov for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk January 9 TASS—"We consider the need to bring our relations with the Republic of Belarus to a new level and promote closer interaction between our countries in carrying out economic and social reform as a priority goal of Russia's foreign policy," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said.

In his letter to Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on Monday, Yeltsin stressed that "in the interests of both sides, we should work out a clear-cut plan of joint action to expand our cooperation both on a bilateral basis and within the CIS."

The letter followed Lukashenka's message to Yeltsin, in which the Belarusian leader outlined his views on the future of relations between Russia and Belarusia.

Rumors Continue Over Poptsov Dismissal

MM1001105795 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Nikita Vaynonen: "Television Camera Does Not Shoot, but It Is Unmerciful"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources in the Russian Federation President's Staff have told your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent that since Monday morning no edict on the resignation of O. Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company [VGTRK], has passed through the president's office. Nor has anyone seen any draft of such an edict. Rumors of B. Yeltsin's intention to remove the leader of Russian television have been circulating for a long time and there have even been stories that the failed attempt to unite the two federal broadcasting companies was undertaken virtually for that reason. The seriousness of these intentions was confirmed recently, after the president's meeting with Sergey Kovalev, to whom B. Yeltsin unequivocally announced his dissatisfaction with the way Russian television was covering the Chechen events. This was the first time there was direct mention of Poptsov's possible removal.

Many mass media and politicians and the VGTRK collective itself have displayed a sharply negative attitude toward the possibility of such a decision, stating that irrespective of the specific assessments of the positions and role of the mass media and of the VGTRK in particular, in the Chechen conflict, the removal of the leader of the state television company in the situation which has taken shape would mean a step back from the freedom of speech and right of information won with such difficulty. It is hard to say for sure whether the president will implement his intention with regard to O. Poptsov this time or again restrict himself to sounding out public opinion but one thing is undoubted: The dissatisfaction with the press in his immediate entourage which is calling the tune in the Chechen events has reached a climax.

Observers are asking a reasonable question. "I know," the Russian Federation president's appeal in connection with the situation in the Chechen Republic says, "that a number of Russian mass media function with the participation of Chechen money." The adoption of measures to suspend them should be the natural step of the country's leader who is told of such facts. Everyone would understand this and it would be justified. But so far there have been no such measures nor even any clarity as to who he had in mind. The only manifestation of activity of this sort remains the openly expressed dissatisfaction with the Russian television and radio company and its leadership. One of two things: Either it was this leadership which was implied to be Dudayev's mouthpiece—and then proof would have to be offered—or he had someone else in mind—and then it is that other person and not O. Poptsov who should be the target of the

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application of priority and very tough measures. Why has nothing been heard about them? Why is the General Prosecutor's Office not initiating relevant proceedings, not leveling specific charges against specific people? After all, if in O. Poptsov's case one can still speak of a test balloon, then the underground purchase of the press for criminal political purposes is a real crime! The failure to take appropriate steps can only mean one thing: The president has been told not specific facts but only some "results of an analysis" obtained through stretching a point and making comparisons or, as Sergey Kovalev graphically demonstrated, by making things up out of thin air. But this "information" came to rest on fertile soil since in the exceptionally and one might say unprecedentedly grave situation in which the president has found himself by force of circumstances any criticism of his actions and even any truth can easily be presented in a light that favors the "plaintiff" and is to the disadvantage of the truth.

You only have to recall the charges levelled against television (and not only Russian television but also independent television and not only by those responsible for the Chechen action but also by many "patriotic" television viewers): It shows military operations in a one-sided way, only from the position of Dudayev's supporters, it constantly repeats the same pictures showing destroyed Russian equipment and the bodies of our soldiers. First Vice President O. Soskovets has even stated that the press "does not have the brains" to show events in a light favorable to the Russian Army. We shall not describe these reproaches in moral or political terms, we shall put it another way: These reproaches are unprofessional. They come from a complete failure to understand the specific nature of the work of the press, particularly in combat conditions, and a lack of knowledge of legislation on the mass media. Journalists of all political orientations, including foreign journalists, attest unanimously that it is virtually impossible to work at the Russian troops' base—they are not allowed anywhere, their cameras are taken away and the film confiscated—whereas Dudayev's supporters on the contrary help reporters. Who then is to blame for the "one-sided" portrayal of events? And should O. Soskovets, instead of being rude to journalists, issue a strict order that the units observe the Russian Federation Law on the Mass media, which provides for criminal liability for impeding the professional work of a journalist including (and in particular) in "emergency situations?"

I think there is no need to explain why those carrying out the Chechen action are so afraid of publicity: It would betray what is their own, to put it mildly, low level of professionalism. Or else they would not accuse journalists of bias but would appear on the screen more often themselves. Throughout the Chechen campaign this has only happened once. On 8 January on "Itogi" A. Dolgolaptev, deputy chairman of the Federation Council, was virtually the first to try to cite arguments in favor of using the army in Chechnya and to refute what, according to him, were the exaggerated figures for losses. But this did not sound very convincing. So, gentlemen, if you have something to declare—say it and show it. If not, then you have no reason to blame Poptsov.

TV Staff Pledges To Defend Chairman

LD1001105895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The decree dismissing Oleg Poptsov has still not been promulgated. At a news conference which is taking place at this time, Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the Rossiya television and radio company, spoke about the tasks facing the state television and radio company. In his opinion, the company does not belong to the authorities or to any branch of the authorities, but is a state company and is obliged to reflect all viewpoints.

Aleksandr Nekhoroshev, director of the "Vesti" program, said that if the decree is promulgated "we will defend our chairman."

Military & Nuclear Issues

Military Space Force Details Recent Launches

MM1001095595 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0330 GMT 26 Dec 94

[From the "Coordinates of Progress" feature of the "Utro" program: Video report by Aleksandr Galkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are no holidays in the normal sense of the word for the military space forces. Launches are planned without reference to the time of day, or day of the week. They are subject to the laws of celestial mechanics and nothing else. It so happens that the week preceding the New Year will be very busy for the military details at Baykonur, Plesetsk, the Control Center at Golitsyno, and the tracking stations.

The launch of a new carrier—"Rokot"—is planned for 0600 hours [Moscow time] this morning. This first launch will be carried out from Baykonur, but in general the "Rokot's" will be based at the Far East cosmodrome at Svobodnyy, near Blagoveshchensk.

Unfortunately we do not have any video footage of the new carrier, but it is a modification of the RS-18 ballistic missile, or SS-19 according to Western classification, which under an agreement with the Americans has been removed from alert duty and fitted with a special "Briz" [Breeze] booster. It is expected that in the future it will be able to place spacecraft weighing between 1.5 tonnes and 2.0 tonnes in orbit. The "Rokot" carriers will be launched from silos.

Although today's launch is experimental, the "Rokot" will carry a satellite for amateur radio communications of the Russian Defense, Sport, and Technical Organization [ROSTO], which is the successor of DOSAAF [Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy].

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A day later, on 27 December, a "Tsiklon" carrier, launched from Plesetsk, will place six communications satellites in a low orbit in the interests of the Ministry of Defense.

A Proton launch of a Raduga communications satellite is scheduled for 28 December. It is to take place at Baykonur at 1431 hours Moscow time. Incidentally, it will be the 13th Proton launch in the year that is ending. As regards the number of Proton launches, the military space forces have reached the record of 1984.

And finally, 29 December, a Soyuz-U carrier is to leave for space with a military satellite.

Official Notes Nuclear Plants' Money Problems

LD0901163495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 9 (INTERFAX)—Russia's enterprises manufacturing nuclear fuel have got confronted with extremely serious financial problems, Director-General of the TVEL concern Leonid Proskuryakov told INTERFAX. He said that despite the government-taken measures to solve the debt crisis, only 3-5 percent of the actual cost of the nuclear fuel, supplied over the past few months, has been paid for.

The TVEL state concern encompasses all of the Russian Federation's enterprises producing nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants, and is subordinated to the Ministry for Atomic Energy.

Proskuryakov said that the Russian nuclear power plants' total debt amounts to 300 billion rubles. "If Ukraine and Eastern European countries had not paid for the supplies of nuclear fuel, the Russian enterprises manufacturing nuclear fuel would have come to a standstill a long time ago," he said.

According to his sources, the serious problems facing this industrial branch, including wage arrears, were the cause of actions of protest. "I don't see any signs of improvement this year," he said.

Federal Assembly

Duma Plans To Assert 'Control' Over Executive

MM1001100195 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Vasilyev and Lyubov Volodina: "State Duma Striving To Obtain Control Functions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Signatures calling for the early convening of a session of the lower house to examine the situation in the Chechen Republic have been collected in the State Duma. The Duma will thus be starting work a day early—11 January. As Yegor Gaydar, leader of the "Russia's Choice" faction, reported, the members of "Russia's Choice" will again be insisting on the adoption of constitutional amendments which will give the State Duma control functions.

We would recall that the idea of giving the parliament control functions was voiced back in early December following the return of Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the Duma Defense Committee, from the Chechen Republic. In his opinion, it is dictated by the lack of rights enjoyed by our parliament and by the fact that it has virtually no influence on the political situation in the country. The new Constitution, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent was told by Sergey Yushenkov, unfortunately does not clearly delineate the authorities' spheres of activity in the country and has not allowed parliament to control the course of events and swiftly correct mistakes made by the executive. Exploiting the fact that they are beyond control and not answerable to anybody, certain representatives of the executive may allow themselves to indulge in various abuses, becoming little dictators in their own zone of power. The Constitution is still at the stage of being improved, the deputy said, it is not a fixed dogma—he therefore considers it appropriate and expedient to make relevant additions to it.

To all intents and purposes it is a question of supplementing Articles 102 and 103 with the provision that the Federation Council and the State Duma "control the actions of officials in accordance with federal laws." There is no unanimity of view on this among State Duma deputies, although the State Duma decree "On the Situation in the Chechen Republic as a Russian Federation Component and Measures to Reach a Political Settlement" instructs Duma committees to draw up proposals to make corresponding amendments to the Fundamental Law.

We can assume that, despite deputies' constant complaints that it is impossible to really influence the executive, within the context of the Chechnya events it will not be easy to adopt these amendments—in parliament there are plenty of supporters of a hard-line solution to the conflict who believe that the executive should not be hamstrung at just the time when it has finally begun to take action. Nonetheless, the question of parliament's control functions will probably be put to a vote. It is interesting that this time it was initiated by the democrats, who have always advocated the strict separation of powers and the demarcation of parliament's functions so as to avoid any confrontation between the executive and the legislature.

The "Russia's Choice" argument is that parliamentary control over the executive will make it possible to rectify in good time mistakes that often result in disaster for the Russian people. At the same time, the "Russia's Choice" and "Yabloko" factions are planning to specifically influence the situation in the Chechen Republic through the only means available to the Duma—legislation. The democratic factions are currently preparing a draft law

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on the cessation of hostilities in Chechnya and a number of other draft laws regulating the Armed Forces' participation in conflicts on Russian territory.

Parliamentary Official Supports Chechnya Operation

LD0901160295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow. January 8. (INTERFAX)—Federation Council Deputy Chairman Anatoliy Dolgolaptev has expressed confidence that "the operation in Chechnya will be led to the end". Dolgolaptev, who is a member of the commission set up by the president recently to monitor compliance with human rights, was interviewed on the Itogi TV program Sunday, shortly before his return from the zone of conflict.

He said that although he had not been in Groznyy itself, he was informed in detail about the situation in the region as a whole. Dolgolaptev reported that in Chechnya Russian troops displayed high morale and "behaved with dignity." He stressed that it is "the Russian troops who control the situation in Chechnya."

Dolgolaptev pointed out that according to intelligence data "only illegal armed units" are being shelled and bombed. "Regrettably, there are casualties among the peaceful population." However, he added, all forget that "about 30 people have been liquidated or have tracelessly disappeared in Chechnya virtually daily over the last three years."

Asked about the Chechen population's attitude to the conflict, Dolgolaptev replied that "the people are armed, but it is not the people who are fighting." More than that, as Dolgolaptev put it, "a movement toward Dudayev's opponents has got under way." He stressed that according to his information "mercenaries are fighting" on Dudayev's side.

On legal aspects of the Chechen crisis, Dolgolaptev said that armed actions in Chechnya "are quite legitimate even without the imposition of a state of emergency". At the same time, he admitted that "Russia's legislation does not have sufficient ground for combat actions, and it is for legislators to work out these foundations."

Asked about prospects for a settlement in Chechnya, Dolgolaptev suggested that "during the next few months not only combat but all coercive actions will come to an end, and by the spring the restoration of economy and normal life will begin in the Chechen republic."

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Talks of Transitional Government for Chechnya

LD1001151695 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1440 GMT 10 Jan 95

[Report by correspondent Valeriy Kiosa from the Russian Federation government building]

[FBIS Translated Text] Good day, here in the White House Viktor Chernomyrdin is having a meeting with representatives of the Chechen diaspora in Moscow. Several minutes before the meeting Mokhot Isambayev, who is in the delegation, told journalists that he and his colleagues consider it necessary first of all the stop the bloodshed in Chechnya where people of different ethnic groups are being killed on both sides.

This war has been instigated by politicians, Isambayev stressed, and it is only they and not the people who need it.

The statement by the Russian premier at the beginning of the meeting contained elements which hitherto have not been encountered in speeches by representatives of Russian power structures. The Russian prime minister declared that the main aim of a political settlement of the Chechen crisis now is the ending of the bloodshed.

Viktor Chernomyrdin thinks there is no point today in discussing the reasons for the events in Chechnya although this—including the actions on a military level—will have to been returned to, the prime minister stated.

But now the main thing is to determine the procedure for the cease-fire, restore the activity of the local bodies of power in Chechnya, and form a government in Chechnya for a transitional period - that is, not more than three or four months, in Viktor Chernomyrdin's opinion.

And finally, it has to be determined what kind of political institution will express the opinion of the population of the Chechen Republic. For this purpose, Viktor Chernomyrdin is ready to meet with representatives of the elders of Chechnya and overall he declared the necessity for the most precise definition of all the prodecures for the talks process.

As to how this meeting is going, unfortunately I cannot say at present because all the journalists were asked to leave the sessions hall.

Power Ministries Anticipating Reshuffles Over Chechnya

MK1001101795 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov under the "Situation in Chechnya" rubric: "If Reality Does Not Square With Military Science, So Much the Worse for Reality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday, Chechen fighters seized an assault force airdropped in the mountains. This subunit of an elite branch of forces surrendered virtually without a fight: Out of 50 men, 48 were taken prisoner and two were killed. This is just one of a series of unexplained facts relating to the combat operations under way in Chechnya, which had been carefully planned by the Defense Ministry General Staff.

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According to military experts, in bringing tanks to Groznyy the Army followed all the rules of military science. Specialists think that, ideally, the operation should have proceeded as follows: Assault groups should have been airdropped onto the city's key points while tanks, supported by mechanized infantry, should have fought their way in to meet them. But Groznyy's defenders have up to now managed to cut the infantry off from the tanks, which become very vulnerable targets without infantry support. In the absence of armored support, airborne assault groups can only retreat.

No military expert could convincingly explain, however, what strategic value Groznyy has and what military objectives its seizure could achieve. Experts believe that, once they were pushed into the snow-covered mountains and left without food and munitions, forces loyal to Dudayev would not be able to wage a guerrilla war for very long. It is clear, however, that the fighting to seize the city serves primarily political objectives, and therein lies one reason for the string of failures.

The course of events has demonstrated not only the low level of organization of the military operation (at first, troop unit commanders had to get Mozdok's authorization to return fire), but also unprecedented disarray among the top brass. The Defense Ministry is aware of the depth of the debacle and has no doubts that someone should bear the responsibility for it. Even those generals who used to be the most loyal to Pavel Grachev are trying to distance themselves from him. They have so far been reluctant come out against him openly, however, as they are not certain that Boris Yeltsin will decide to replace him.

Still, it cannot be ruled out that responsibility for the failure may be placed on Oleg Lobov, chief of the Security Council staff, and his subordinates. This option would be most desirable for those who actually devised Moscow's Chechnya policy and armed the opposition, as well as for those who sent in the troops. Meanwhile, staffers at the Security Council are asserting that as early as a year ago they proposed a plan to start lengthy talks with the Chechen leadership to be followed by the "quiet" removal of Dzhokhar Dudayev, but that their advice went unheeded and that since summer 1994 Security Council experts have been excluded from solving the Chechen problem.

Dismissal would probably loom for those who would not be able to prove that they were not involved in the arming of the Dudayev regime. It is another matter whether Boris Yeltsin would like to raise this problem seriously at all. But reshuffles in the leadership of the power structures appear to be all but inevitable. The sooner there is a denouement in Chechnya, the sooner the reshuffles will come. In all likelihood, they will be gradual: The president is unlikely to make drastic decisions with regard to various power agencies all at once.

[Box, p 3]

The patience of regional leaders, who had initially taken a reserved stance on Moscow's actions in Chechnya, appears to be wearing thinner with every new day of the long-drawn-out confrontation. The leaders of the Federation subjects are far from unanimous on this issue, though: there are among them proponents of harsh measures against Groznyy and also opponents of violent methods. The center's main support base is still constituted by the leaders of most North Caucasus republics. Not limiting themselves to moral backing (a collective letter by the chiefs of five republics to Boris Yeltsin on the need to bring order to Chechnya appeared on the eve of the introduction of troops), they are giving Moscow more tangible assistance by providing their territory for military formations to be moved to Chechnya and preventing their radical nationalists from intervening in the Chechen events. The sole exception in this regard is Ingush President Ruslan Aushev, who categorically opposed violent methods and even ventured an open confrontation with Moscow. The Ingush leader's stance is shared by the leaders of the republics and oblasts of the Volga-Urals region, who met in Cheboksary on 5 January to demand that Boris Yeltsin start peace talks with Groznyy immediately. To all appearances, they have been driven by fears that once Chechnya is dealt with, Moscow would desire to pacify other "uncompromising" republics as well.

However, most leaders of Federation subjects make up the third—and most numerous—group, which prefers not to run the risk of antagonizing the center: Even while disagreeing with the center's violent methods, these leaders have been careful not to publicize their stances. But if casualties among Russian troops continue to increase, even the "law-abiding" regional leaders could take sides with public opinion, which has denounced the war in Chechnya.

Northern Fleet Marines Sent to Chechnya

LD1001112895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Murmansk, Jan 10 (INTERFAX)—Over 500 marines have been sent during the past few days with a special brigade of the North Fleet to Mozdok, North Ossetia, to participate in the Chechen operation, INTERFAX was told by the fleet command. The group includes sailors, ensigns and officers. The commander is Major-General Aleksandr Obrakovskiy.

According to the source, later several other marine units of the North Fleet might be sent to Chechnya. A high-ranking officer from the staff of the fleet felt that the total number of marines sent to Chechnya will most likely exceed 1500-2000 men.

Pacific Fleet Denies Reports

LD1001113495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok, Jan 10 (INTERFAX)—The press center of the Pacific Fleet has denied reports, circulated by local media, that Marines have been sent to Chechnya.

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This information is untrue, says the press center's statement, circulated in Vladivostok. The Pacific Fleet's Marines belong to the Russian Defense Ministry's mobile forces and are preparing to assume their duty.

No Chechnya-related tasks have been assigned either to the Pacific Fleet or to the Marines, says the document. It is not ruled out, however, that the Marines might be sent to any place where Russia's interests need to be protected, reads the statement.

Kovalev Baffled By Moscow's Chechnya Move

LD1001112495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1037 GMT 10 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran January 10 TASS—Russia's human rights commissioner Sergey Kovalev has expressed "extreme bafflement" in connection with the content of the Russian Government's last night call on participants in unlawful armed formations on the territory of the Chechen Republic to cease fire, withdraw from their positions, lay down arms, surrender military equipment and return prisoners taken during armed clashes.

Kovalev said this in a statement which he released here today before leaving Nazran for Groznyy.

The statement notes that throughout January 9 he discussed the possibility of negotiations on a 48-hour truce designed to take the wounded people, including federal servicemen taken prisoner by Groznyy, out of the conflict zone and to return the bodies of dead soldiers. The idea of a truce had been proposed by the Chechen side.

As a result of telephone conversations with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister agreed in principle to such a truce for 48 hours and approved Sergey Kovalev's initiative that he go to Groznyy on January 10 in order to discuss details of the proposed agreement with the Chechen leadership, the statement said.

At Chernomyrdin's request, Sergey Kovalev contacted by telephone General Leontiy Shevtsov, deputy chief of the military operation in Chechnya, and achieved an agreement in principle on the beginning of the process of working out terms for a temporary ceasefire.

Kovalev Interviewed on Chechnya Truce Issues

LD0901195695 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1620 GMT 9 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Sergey Kovalev, Russian human rights commissioner, in Nazran, by station announcer in Moscow—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kovalev] I have just, at 1830, had a conversation with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, my last conversation—we had already spoken before. We talked about a proposal for a 48-hour truce in Groznyy, in order to remove corpses, and, most important, to take away the wounded. Chernomyrdin agreed to this at our request, he agreed with the military leadership, he appointed Stepashin and Kovshin for this purpose, and he spoke to Grachev.

I will now contact Mozdok right away and arrange a trip to Groznyy to meet the Chechen side. There are already preliminary contacts with the Chechen side; in principle the Chechen side is ready, ready to discuss the issue of a truce and even a little earlier wanted something similar. This is why there is a very great hope that such a truce will take place. Moreover, Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin said that it would be good if there was a first step toward a halt to the bloodshed.

[Announcer] Sergey Adamovich, do you know if Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin has already given the order for preparations for this truce to begin?

[Kovalev] Yes.

[Announcer] Then, the last question: When do you think this truce can be set up or when can talks on this begin?

[Kovalev] It seems to me that there are no technical obstacles to prevent it from beginning tomorrow. For this to happen, only the conditions need to be agreed, relevant meetings held, conditions discussed with the competent people and, there needs to be designated [changes thought], there needs to be a cease-fire and then it can happen.

[Announcer] Sergey Adamovich, as you know very well the positions of both the conflicting sides in Chechnya, what do you think, what terms might be put forward by both sides, and how can this be resolved?

[Kovalev] The Russian side proposed in its radio contact to lay down arms as a first step and recalled that the president's decree remains in force on an amnesty. It seems to me that this could not be a condition, just a reminder for those who want to follow it. It is unlikely that the Chechen side would implement such a step.

I do not see any obstacles regarding the basic aim of removing corpses and, most importantly, taking away the wounded.

[Announcer] Sergey Adamovich, what do you think could be the guarantees for observation of the truce?

[Kovalev] Viktor Stepanovich said in reply to that question that the problem had been agreed with President Yeltsin, and he himself, Chernomyrdin, had agreed, to guarantee the conditions.

[Announcer] I remind you that you were listening to an interview which Sergey Adamovich Kovalev gave to our radio station half an hour ago. I apologize for the technical conditions, Nazran is a long way from Moscow.

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Chechens' 'Initial' Agreement to 48-Hour Cease-Fire

LD0901165095 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As our program has just been informed from Nazran by human rights plenipotentiary Sergey Kovalev, he has managed to gain the Chechen side's initial agreement to a 48-hour cease-fire to take out of Groznyy the severely wounded and also the bodies of the slain Russian military men. This idea was supported in a telephone conversation with Kovalev by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Kovalev Reports Agreement

LD0901162295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1600 GMT on 9 January carries a report from Groznyy by correspondent Sergey Omelchenko, who reports on the situation in Groznyy and notes that he has met with Russian human rights commissioner Sergey Kovalev. In a recorded telephone conversation Kovalev says:

"Today I had two conversations with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin. Agreement has been reached—this question has been agreed also with the military leadership of the Russian Army—on a proposal for a 48-hour truce, the main aim of which is to remove the wounded on both sides and remove the numerous corpses. Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin also voiced the hope that this first step would be the first step of the peace process."

Shelling Continues; Cease-Fire Called 'Trick'

NC1001092495 Paris AFP in English 0854 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Russia, Jan 10 (AFP)—Russian forces resumed shelling of the centre of Groznyy on Tuesday, in violation of a unilateral cease-fire offered by the Russian government, an AFP correspondent here reported.

The shelling resumed after a lull lasting about two hours, with shells crashing near the presidential palace in the centre of Groznyy every 30 seconds.

Moscow had announced a unilateral 48-hour ceasefire starting from 8:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) in its war with the rebellious republic.

But two hours later, an AFP reporter in the presidential palace could hear shells exploding at a rate of two per minute while the rattle of small-arms fire intensified.

Russia had said the ceasefire was aimed at preventing further bloodshed and to ensure conditions for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Chechen forces were given from 8:00 a.m. on January 10 to 8:00 a.m. on January 12 to "cease their fire, leave their positions and combat equipment, lay down their arms and return prisoners captured during the armed clashes", the announcement said.

In Moscow, Sergey Kovalev, the human rights activist and member of parliament, sent a communique from Groznyy protesting the wording of the announcement. "The Chechen forces are once again being offered, under the form of an ultimatum, to lay down their arms," he said.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 0810 GMT on 10 January adds the following: "The head of the general staff of Chechen separatist forces, Aslan Moskhadov, on Tuesday described Moscow's announcement of a 48-hour ceasefire as 'a trick'.

["Around 8:00 a.m. (0500 GMT), artillery fire had ceased in line with the ceasefire, but it resumed two hours later, with shells falling at the rate of one every 30 seconds, AFP reporters in the presidential palace said.

["Moskhadov told AFP in the palace that the Russian military was clearly violating the ceasefire agreement announced in Moscow Monday.

["'My soldiers are fighting all over the city,' Moskhadov said. 'There is no ceasefire.'

["He said he had sent one of his commanders to meet with a Russian commander Monday night and the two had agreed to begin a ceasefire at 11:00 p.m. Monday (2000 GMT).

["'My men complied with the ceasefire, but the Russian artillery has started shelling us again,' he said.

["He said the ceasefire was 'aimed at international public opinion so that the Russians could say they are not only using the military option.'

["The top four floors of the 11-floor presidential palace have been entirely destroyed by Russian artillery. Three other floors are blackened with smoke."]

Chechen Provisional Government Head on Tasks

MM0901195795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 95 First Edition p 1, 2

[Interview with Salambek Khadzhiyev, prime minister of the Government for the National Revival of the Chechen Republic, by unnamed journalists; place and date not given: "Let the People Decide—Interview with Salambek Khadzhiyev, Prime Minister of the Government for the National Revival of the Chechen Republic"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A report by the Russian Federation Government Press Service states:

"As we have already announced, the Government for the National Revival of the Chechen Republic, led by

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Salambek Khadzhiyev, has set to work in Groznyy: Khadzhiyev answered questions from journalists."

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What will your government do first?

[Khadzhiyev] The first thing is to try to set up a system of aid for refugees. Yesterday, we brought almost 50 children out of here. There are many people in basements. We will set up a system of aid for refugees in collaboration with the Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters, the Federal Migration Service, and other Russian departments.

The second task is to gather together a number of managers, primarily of plants and industrial facilities, to think about how we can begin to restore them. It is necessary to contemplate at least the first steps and to determine where exactly we need to begin.

Third, as soon as military operations cease, we will have to begin reviving the municipal economy, providing people with water, light, heat. This, of course, represents a huge amount of work. The city has been devastated by the endeavors of Dudayev's criminals. But this is civilian work. This is constructive work. I dream of the day when we will be able to get on with constructive work without interruption. We have had enough of efforts to destroy one another over ideological questions.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] What are the real levers of control at the provisional government's disposal?

[Khadzhiyev] The levers of control are purely personality based, as you know. That is, the personal influence of the leaders. The vast majority of leaders know one another personally. Apart from us, there is nobody to put this republic back on its feet. And second, there is the economic influence of Russia. Today, we have worked out under the guidance of the Russian Government a decree on reviving the Chechen economy—a program covering all areas. This program will cost, at the first approximation without account of today's devastation, somewhere in the region of 1 trillion rubles.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] How will you interact with the territorial administration of the federal organs of executive power?

[Khadzhiyev] We see the territorial administration as the representative of Russia's ministries on the ground. Their task is to ensure communications between our government and the Russian Government. And to get issues resolved as quicklyas possible. This does not mean that they will replace us. This is impossible in principle, as we are completely different structures. The entire territorial administration will comprise between 130 and 140 people. Whereas the apparatus of the executive power of the Chechen Republic, including representatives of the rayon executive power, comprises tens of thousands of people. They are completely different systems. As such, there are no problems here.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] How do you see the prospects for a political settlement of the Chechen conflict? What will the republic's political-administrative structure be like? What will it be—a presidential republic, or will power be handed over to the parliament, or the mekkh-kkhel [as transliterated]?

[Khadzhiyev] The question of political structure can only be resolved by one component—the people of Chechnya. There is no other force which can decide this for us. That the past three years have taught us to address this question in a balanced manner is another matter. You know that Dudayev did not ask the Chechen people's opinion, he did not hold any kind of referendum, he just imposed his will. This is the reason for today's hostilities. He believed that whatever he thinks is the definitive and perfect truth. We do not. We believe that truth is born in debate. And the ultimate truth is the polling station, where the people vote. Opinion is expressed through the ballot box. This view may coincide with the view of one or other political figure. But I am deeply convinced that there is no such thing as an erroneous view on the part of the people. All of us—the opposition forces in Chechnya—have agreed that the Chechen Republic will be a parliamentary republic. Because our mentality is such—we do not like to be subordinate to anybody, even a president. You know very well that, outside the boundaries of a few rayons of the city of Groznyy, Dudayev, in reality, governs nothing. But a parliament—this is the very thrust of the mekkh-kkhel, mekh meaning land, the whole of Chechnya, and kkhel meaning court of the land. It will create laws, and it will set decrees, it will judge how people should live. This is the mekh-kkhel. And we will be a parliamentary republic. I am sure of this.

Chechnya: Russians Face Well-Trained Enemy

MM1001102195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Colonel Oleg Falichev: "Fighting in Groznyy—Russian Troops Facing Experienced, Well-Trained Gunmen. Our Special Correspondent Colonel Oleg Falichev Reports From the Scene"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mi-8 flight began as usual—with the whirr of the blades and then the takeoff. We flew the Mozdok—Tolstoy-Yurt—Groznyy route providing air support for ground convoys and selecting landing sites at troop deployment areas.

...Our helicopter, accompanied by two Mi-24's, flew nap-of-the-earth, using hills as cover against surface-to-air missiles. Unfortunately, what look like peaceful villages and settlements could suddenly start peppering us with bullets. As has already been the case in Tolstoy-Yurt and other areas. The Dudayev formations, according to certain information, are even equipped with U.S. Stinger missiles.

We could see from the air how convoys of military hardware were approaching Groznyy along various

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routes. Looking at them, I—as a journalist caught in this hell hole—naturally thought about when it would all end.... Incidentally, many people in Russia are now considering these questions. After all, we were initially told that there were only a few bandit formations operating in the city, and that the internal troops would be enough to disarm them. We now realize that everything has turned out to be far more complex. There are well-trained and superbly armed and equipped military formations of mercenaries and professionals operating in Chechnya. They are fighting fiercely and desperately. And they have no shortage of patrons or instructors.

Russian troops are finding the going even harder in Groznyy itself. The streets have been cleverly closed off with concrete blocks in such a way that combat hardware has fallen into specially primed "mouse traps" and is then fired upon from overlooking apartment windows. Consequently, in order to approach Groznyy and enter the city, the troops have had to conduct military operations using all the laws of military art. They have had to create concentrated attack forces and destroy defensive positions. But, despite this, everything is being done to ensure that civilians are placed in as little danger as possible. Only obvious [vyyavlennyye] targets are fired upon. But the gunmen, on the contrary, are trying to get the fighting bogged down in residential areas—particularly frequently in areas inhabited predominantly by Russian-speakers. Weapons positions are set up in apartment blocks and administrative buildings—which naturally results in destruction and loss of life.

There is hardly any point in enumerating yet again how much hardware the Dudayev supporters have had and still have available. The politicians who originally made these handouts of weapons possible know this better than I. I want to talk about something else. It would be naive to underestimate these factors—just as it would be naive, incidentally, to overestimate the strength of the opposition in the belief that war is being waged by the entire Chechen people. Ordinary people are not involved, they have been scared out of their wits and terrorized. Lieutenant General Stanislav Kavun, deputy commander of the Internal Troops, said the following on this score:

"There have been cases when young men have been rounded up in the villages and press-ganged into fighting in Groznyy. But the Chechen people on the whole do not support the gunmen. We have recently moved more than 150 convoys, and there was not a single sabotage attempt against one of them."

At the same time, he confirmed that there have been instances of Afghan and Ukrainian gunmen and Abkhaz mercenaries being found to be present in Chechnya. The participation in the hostilities of competition marksmen from the Baltic was also confirmed. It is still hard to establish their precise number. At the outbreak of hostilities the Dudayev ranks in Chechnya numbered a total of 13,000 gunmen and mercenaries according to official figures. Although now, I believe, there is no longer any doubt that their ranks include many ordinary citizens who sincerely believe in the Chechen leader.

But what is attracting these "wild geese"—who under international legal norms fall outside of all laws—to the war? It can hardly be any ideological identification with the leaders of the illegal formations. They are lured by the rustle of dollar bills. According to intelligence reports, the mercenaries can earn up to $1,000 a day. Plus bonuses for every Russian officer killed. Where do such crazy amounts of money come from? I will try to answer that question in my next report. But let me leave you with one more point.

During this trip I have visited field positions and headquarters. And I have been approached everywhere by people who had good things to say about our correspondent Vladimir Zhitarenko, who was shot dead by a sniper on the front line. Many people here remember his essays and reports from "hot spots" and his penetrating lines about Russian officers and men. It turns out that those who say that a newspaper only lasts a single day are wrong. Lines that are read with the heart live on until human memory is no more.

Russian Army Reportedly Takes 2 Cantonments in Groznyy

LD0901213595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Jan 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 129th Motor Rifle Regiment of the Russian Army commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Borisov, having done a 50 km march in bad weather, went straight into battle and ousted Dudayev's militants from the territory of military cantonments N2 and N86 in Groznyy. A large amount of equipment, ammunition, and kit has been captured.

[Begin Major General Yu Fetisov recording] We have captured very good, so to speak, large trophies from the Dudayev forces. They probably did not expect the regiment would act with such precision. The regiment carried out the operation very well. The first battalion attacked the military cantonment. A military cantonment consists of barracks, the park zone, and the depot zone full of equipment and property. (The battalion) attacked and was met with intense fire. But the second battalion outflanked it and when we struck from the flank and from the rear some of the militants were killed and the rest ran. [end recording]

Seizes Part of State Security Building

LD0901145095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1427 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The federal troops today seized the lower floors

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of the state security department in Groznyy, ITAR-TASS has learned from well-informed sources in Russia's Defense Ministry.

Meanwhile, an ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko has reported from Nazran, citing sources in the Ingushetian leadership, that this afternoon the command of the federal troops in the zone of the Chechen conflict sent additional forces to Groznyy.

The same sources have reported from Nazran that Dudayev's residence in the center of Groznyy is still under fire. About 200 Dudayev's supporters are defending it. It has been reported that Dudayev's right-hand man Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev is in charge of the defense.

Nothing definite has been reported about what happened to Dudayev.

Reportedly Attack Town in Dagestan

NC0901151995 Baku TURAN in English 1333 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 7, TURAN—Today Congress of Confederation of Caucasian Nations will be opened in Makhachkala, representatives from Confederation told TURAN's Moscow's correspondent. The same sources report that situation in Chechnya will be focus of attention during the Congress. Representatives of Caucasian nations intend to discuss joint measures due to Russia's continuing punitive activities in Chechnya.

It should be mentioned that on January 5 in the morning for the first time since the beginning of war in Chechnya, Russian troops attacked Dagestan's town of Kizlyar. As a result of this attack, approximately 20 Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded and several units of military vehicles have been destroyed. One can suppose that in the near future attacks of Russian troops on Dagestan will be more frequent. The sources close to Confederation told TURAN that several groups, which independently carry out military activities against Russian troops, will be founded on Dagestan's territory.

The same groups are also created in Ingushetiya. They caused considerable damage to Russian troops. The same source reports that the majority of armed groups contain commandos of different nationalities of the Caucasus.

Ombudsman Claims Russian Army Hiding Soldiers Bodies

TA0901152995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia's ombudsman (Sergey Kovolyo) told Qol Yisra'el that the Russian Army fighting in Chechnya is hiding the bodies of its soldiers and tells the parents that they are missing in order to reduce the number of fatalities. (Kovolyo) spoke with our correspondent Gid'on Remez on a stopover from Moscow to Groznyy, the capital of Chechnya. He called on the world to exert every possible pressure on Russia to stop the bloodshed. He believes that not only Chechnya but all of Russia, is endangered by a return to totalitarianism.

Ingushetian Deputy President (Boris Agapov) told our correspondent that the events in Chechnya are causing the Muslim peoples in the Caucasus and all over Russia to rise up.

Russian Planes Reportedly Drop Chemical Bombs on Groznyy

NC0901220395 Baku TURAN in English 1511 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 9 (TURAN)—Yesterday Russian aviation bombarded Groznyy for the whole day long. The city was also shelled from "Grad" and "Uragan" artillery systems, Chairman of "Boz Gurd" [Grey Wolves] party, Iskender Hamidov, quotes Groznyy's sources, as saying.

Chechen's sources report that more than 30 chemical bombs were dropped on Groznyy.

As a result of shelling and bombardment about 100 peaceful citizens have died. The same sources report that before dropping of chemical bombs, units of Russian troops left the positions from which they bombarded the city.

Sources from Groznyy report that Russian military leadership sends to Chechnya soldiers belonging to ethnic minorities. The Russian Army fighting in Chechnya consists mostly of Chuvashs, Mordvins, Tatars, Bashkirs, Komi, Kalmyks and Marii.

Sources from Groznyy say that information that Dudayev left the city is false. He leads the operations and presently he is in a bunker. There were no changes in situation in Chechnya over the past day, Groznyy's sources report.

Three 'Combat Helicopters' Downed Over Ossetian Town

LD0901201295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening three Russian combat helicopters were shot down over the Ossetian town of Beslan. They were the same ones that two days ago shot at and killed a 12 year-old Ingush boy near the village of (Ale-Yurt). One of those who took part in shooting down the helicopters told our correspondent, I quote: This is an act of retribution, and this will happen to everyone who makes attempts on the lives of Ingush.

Captured Paratroopers Taken to Groznyy

LD0901173495 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our special correspondent Boris Koltsov, who is in Chechnya at present, told us over the

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phone a few minutes ago that, out of 50 paratroopers who landed in the mountains two days ago to help complete the operation in Groznyy, 48 were taken prisoner and two were killed. A number of those taken prisoner were wounded. Koltsov told us that a Russian helicopter was seen today near the spot where the paratroopers landed. A warning that an ultimatum will expire tomorrow at noon was repeated. According to the ultimatum, mountain villages will be bombed if the paratroopers are not released. As we said in our previous report, the captured paratroopers have already been taken to Groznyy.

Appointments to Chechen Territorial Administration

MM0901162995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 95 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Government Directive No. 4-r, dated Moscow, 4 January 1995 and signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin]

[FBIS Translated Text] To appoint:

K.M. Tsogolov, Russian Federation deputy minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy, first deputy leader of the Territorial Administration of Federal Organs of Executive Power in the Chechen Republic;

R.Yu. Gusaruk, Russian Federation deputy minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy, deputy leader of the Territorial Administration of Federal Organs of Executive Power in the Chechen Republic;

V.G. Shumov, deputy chief of the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Main Admninistration for Ensuring Public Order, deputy leader of the Territorial Administration of Federal Organs of Executive Power in the Chechen Republic with the rank of Russian Federation deputy minister;

I.I. Agarkov, deputy head of Krasnodar Kray Administration, deputy leader of the Territorial Administration of Federal Organs of Executive Power in the Chechen Republic and leader of this administration's apparatus.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Government Report Details Chechen Fighters' Tactics

LD0901152195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1431 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The following report from the Russian Federation press service reached ITAR-TASS today:

"According to reports which have reached the advanced group of the Russian Federation press service from prisoners and deserters, as well as refugees, leadership of the illegal armed formations in Groznyy is currently being exercised by six-eight combat commanders operating independently of each other. The chief of the general staff of Dudayev's fighters is engaged in buying up weapons and ammunition, as well as seeking volunteers to defend the city.

"A subunit of 'Gray Wolves' numbering up to 200 men is operating in Groznyy. It consists of Azerbaijani military specialists. The fighters are carrying out on-the-spot shootings of prisoners of north Caucasian extraction, as well as officers. An overall total of 1,660 criminals who were released from the Naurskiy penal colony at the end of 1994 are taking part in combat operations on Dudayev's side. In the main they are people who were detained for brutal crimes.It was confirmed that top Chechen leaders sent their families to Krasnodar region before military actions began.

"There have been many instances when militants wearing Russian military uniform have approached servicemen and thrown hand grenades at them. Fifteen and 16-year-old youths are involved in destroying Russian armored vehicles by throwing Molotov cocktails at them. the Russian counterintelligence snipers have killed several militants in the past few days.

"The majority of the Chechen population remains neutral with regard to actions by the Russian troops.

"Reports saying that some special services are trying to form an anti-Russian united front in Islamic countries have been fully confirmed."

Chechen Villagers Deny Holding Russian POW's

LD0901140195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 9 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy January 9 TASS—Residents of Chechen villages Komsomolskoye and Alkhazurovo turned to the military command of the Russian troops with a plea that air strikes should not be dealt at their villages as they have not detained Russian paratroopers and, moreover, the paratroopers are no longer in these villages.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent heard in Alkhazurovo on Sunday an ultimatum broadcast in Russian and Chechen that Komsomolskoye and Alkhazurovo villages will be destroyed by air strikes unless local residents release imprisoned officers and men by noon on January 10. The ultimatum sounded from loadspeakers from board a helicopter that was patrolling these villages for several hours.

Intimidated residents held a spontaneous rally at the mosque in Alkhazurovo. They adopted an address to the command of Russian troops. The document, a copy of which was received by ITAR-TASS, says that residents of the above-mentioned villages did not engage in combat with Russian troops. Russian paratroopers

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landed in highlands to bar the retreat to Dudayev militants. On January 7, paratroopers in Alkhazurovo were detained by Chechen militants and were transfered to Groznyy. Therefore local residents are unable to release them. Because of this, they appeal to wisdom of those who faced them with the ultimatum they cannot possibly fulfil.

ITAR-TASS learned from the Alkhazurovo administration that in the village there are at present some ten thousand refugees—women, the aged and children. The same is true of Komsomolskoye.

The 48-hour ultimatum of Russian troops to peaceful people expires, as is known, at noon on January 10.

Federal Forces 'Overcoming Fierce Resistance' in Groznyy

LD0901141295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1321 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federation government press service released the following report to ITAR-TASS today:

"In the course of the past 24 hours federal troops have continued to seal off, disperse, and wipe out illegal armed formations. By the morning of 9 January federal troop units, overcoming fierce resistance by Dudayev's fighters, continued to dislodge illegal armed formations in the area of the former obkom party building, captured the quarter as far as Rabochaya street, between Pervaya Sovetskaya street and Ordzhonikidze Prospekt, and set up sentry points from Lermontov street to Gospitalnaya street, and from Mashinnaya street to Mayakovskiy street.

"The illegal armed formations are putting up stubborn resistance, using the tactic of operating in small groups and the system of point-of-resistance defense. At the same time units of illegal armed formations are regrouping, preparing for combat operations in conditions of guerrilla warfare with the support of previously prepared bases in the mountainous regions of Chechnya. Dudayev sub-units, who have maintained their fighting ability, and are operating in groups of 10-20, are being switched to the southern regions of the republic.

According to military intelligence, civilians in Chechnya's northern and southern regions are actively preventing Dudayev's formations that arrive from Groznyy from settling there. Thus, the residents of the settlements of Dargo and Dyshne-Vedeno, who want no trouble for themselves, have asked fighters who arrived there to leave their settlements.

According to information obtained from the internal troops command, local residents in the settlements of Alpatovo and Kalinovskaya are actually helping internal troops servicemen to step up the protection of important strategic sites (a rail station and local airfield) from possible attacks by militants.

On 9 January the tasks of the troops carrying out operations aimed at restoring the constitutional system in the Chechen Republic are to continue taking the city and blockading and disarming illegal armed formations.

Internal, External Financial Cost of Chechnya War Weighed

MM0901160395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Berger: "What the Chechen War Will Cost Us"]

[FBIS Translated Text] How much will the war cost this year? Obtaining any reliable figures about the economic losses connected with the Chechen conflict is as difficult as trying to extract information on military losses and human casualties.

Nevertheless, the Economics Ministry has tried to assess the possible costs connected with restoring what has already been destroyed and what is likely to be destroyed. The fundamental position does not suggest great accuracy. What else is going to be destroyed today, tomorrow, the day after that?...

For example, according to the Economics Ministry's estimates the cost of rebuilding the housing stock, engineering installations, and other facilities this year could be between 2.3 trillion rubles [R] and R2.7 trillion—depending on the intensity of the military actions. The likely cost of restoring the oil and gas complex has been assessed separately and runs to at least R700 billion-R800 billion. Although unlike the housing stock the rebuilding of the oil industry could yield an immediate financial return. But when will the Groznyy oil refinery begin showing a profit?

In any event the most cautious assessments of the economic losses resulting from the conflict this year range from R3.1 trillion to R3.5 trillion.

As for the purely military costs, they are being met at present within the framework of the power departments' budgets. Of course, these costs will prompt the "men from the power ministies" to go to the government and parliament to demand additional appropriations considerably earlier than they would have done had it not been for the events in Chechnya. And the demands themselves, of course, will be larger in scale.

However, it should be noted that today or tomorrow the military will find it considerably harder to demand an increase in their budget than was the case a month ago. "Give us more money to build new tanks to replace those which we carelessly incinerated in Groznyy...." Demands of this kind will hardly arouse great sympathy among the majority of deputies.

The Finance Ministry's assessments are close to the calculations of the Economics Ministry. A high-ranking source in the Finance Ministry informed IZVESTIYA

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that if active military operations cease in the new few weeks the restoration of the industrial and other facilities plus grants and other payments to the population of the liberated territories could be as high as R3.5 trillion.

But if the military conflict develops, then the military costs will have to be calculated. The power departments' requests are in the R2.5 trillion to R4 trillion range. However, that same source offered his arithmetic of the possible military costs. They are extremely simple and consequently convincing. Since it is well known that the first 45 days of the war cost R800 billion, it is not difficult to calculate that the military operations in Chechnya could cost R7.5 trillion projected over 1995 (if you factor in the effect of inflation).

If the military actions end 15 January you get one twenty-fourth of that sum. If the war ends 30 March you get one quarter of 7.5 trillion, and so forth.

IZVESTIYA's interlocutor stressed that all these calculations are very approximate. He expressed special concern at the forthcoming restoration of peace whereby what he called the "Spitak effect" may occur. As is well known, vast amounts were channeled into clearing up the aftermath of the [Spitak] earthquake without having any effect on the devastated territories, but with vast sums ending up in personal accounts. Even the most good-natured expert cannot rule out a "Spitak effect" in Chechnya.

However, Russia can expect the gravest economic losses today not in the military theater but in the civilian offices in Moscow. On 16 January an IMF mission is due in Moscow to resolve the question of granting further billions of dollars for the support of Russia's reforms. I would remind you that this money was firmly promised by international financial organizations only recently and that these figures have been included in a budget which is already weak on the revenue side. The only obstacle which existed just a few weeks ago was the preservation of oil export quotas. That was removed 31 December by special government decree. But now a new obstacle of a political nature has emerged—the war for constitutional order in Chechnya.

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International Affairs

Group Cites Russian FCS Operation in Ukraine

LD0901171495 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1610 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 9 Jan—Before the military conflict began in Chechnya, Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] recruited mercenaries for the so-called "Chechen opposition." This was also done on Ukrainian territory. In particular, in Kharkov oblast between 100 to 250 Ukrainian citizens were recruited, largely retired military personnel. One of the recruitment centers was the town of Kupyansk in Kharkov oblast. According to unconfirmed reports, a large number of mercenaries have already returned to their homeland in zinc coffins. This information sheds light on an "Ostankino" report that Ukrainian mercenaries from the Ukrainian National Self-defense were supposedly executed by Dudayev's men. This was a report from the press center of the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-defense.

Deputy on Ukrainians Fighting in Groznyy

LD0901182595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Jan 9 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Volunteers from Crimea and other parts of Ukraine fight on Dudayev's side in Groznyy, a member of the Ukrainian Nationalists' Congress (UNC), deputy Mikhail Ratushny told a news conference in Kiev Monday. However, he declined to name the exact number of Ukrainians fighting in Chechnya saying only "they were not too many."

Within a UNC delegation which delivered humanitarian aid to Chechnya, Ratushny visited Groznyy in early January.

According to Ratushny, Ukrainians' involvement in the Chechnya conflict "positively affected Ukraine's image in the Caucasus." He pointed out they were volunteers rather than mercenaries, because "Ukrainian citizens do not get paid for participation in military operations."

Ratushny dismissed as "provocative" reports on pro-Dudayev militants' executing a group of Ukrainian volunteers by shooting. He said the Chechen command tried to use Ukrainians "to the minimum extent possible." However, the volunteers managed to distinguish themselves by capturing three Russian APCs on December 31.

Alliance With 'Islamic World' Seen 'Favorable'

WS0901152495 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian 30 Dec-6 Jan 95 p 6

[Commentary by Oleh Dorozhovets: "Attracted by the Light of Half-Moon"]

[FBIS Translated Text]**Leonid Kuchma has decided to build his foreign policy from the opposite side. He crossed out the trajectory, along which Leonid Kravchuk led Ukraine and which had its destination in Europe. At the same time, he rejected his own election program of reviving a single Soviet space and thus returning to the starting point of Kravchuk's trajectory.**

The new president has determined new goals—the CIS and the United States—and commanded the bureaucratic force to obtain them. He dreamed of living in the CIS and using his friendship with the United States to create a financial groundwork for his rule. He had luck with that groundwork: Hardly had he managed to celebrate his first six months at the Mariyinskyy Palace [Ukrainian president's residence], a shower of credits was poured on Ukraine. However, this failed to normalize life. Having abandoned Europe, however not reunited with Moscow, Ukraine found itself in a vacuum in the second half of 1994. The two factors—Europe and Russia—are constantly pressing on Ukraine in light of its geographical situation. To get rid of this pressure, Ukraine should either dissolve in one of those media, or break free from that vacuum and enter some third, more liberal environment.

It was the CIS which, in Leonid Kuchma's view, should have become that kind of environment. However the Commonwealth does not exist as an integral structure. At present, the CIS is a structure composed of a dozen of more or less fitting fragments, and thus, it is dangerous to rely on it. Some of those fragments are tending toward Europe, while others are tending toward Russia....

Azerbaijan and the Central Asian states have yet another powerful gravitation field—the Islamic world. The latter's gravitation force is so great that Ukraine, too, is being drawn into it. Given that Ukraine is an important state, the Islamic world cannot subordinate it. However, an alliance may be formed instead.

The prospects for an alliance look favorable for the two sides. A Ukrainian-Turkish chain in that region could become a barrier in the way of Russia's hegemony in the region. Meanwhile, the reorientation of Near East countries toward a big oil route to Europe via Ukraine could push Russia out of the European market of energy resources. A sort of "pipeline competition" is currently under way. Russia is nurturing plans to lay a gigantic pipeline bypassing Ukraine and stretching across Belarus and Poland to Germany. At the same time, Kiev has begun the construction of a pipeline on Turkish soil, which is to link Turkey's Black Sea coast to the oil fields of Iran, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Central Asia, and the Persian Gulf. It should be admitted though that the building of the Odessa oil terminal is an indispensable element of that network.

Aside from economic reasons, there also exist political arguments in favor of forming a Ukrainian-Muslim alliance. After Russia's invasion of Chechnya the attitude of the Islamic world toward Moscow resembles an

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allergy. The first symptoms of that reaction were evoked by Russia's behavior in Nagornyy Karabakh and Bosnia. On 17 December in Casablanca, the leaders of the Muslim states declared that they would impose economic sanctions on the states assisting the Bosnian Serbs. It is easy to perceive that the declaration unambiguously hinted at Russia. Thus, all attempts to isolate Russia cannot meet with anything other than approval in the Muslim world. Ukraine—in alliance with the Islamic bloc—can significantly limit its northern neighbor both in the Black Sea region and on the already mentioned oil markets.

Sporadic diplomatic skirmishes between Moscow and the capitals of the Muslim world—particularly Ankara which is calling the tune in the anti-Moscow campaign—are evidence of an unproclaimed Russian- Islamic cold war.

Last summer, Kozyrev's Foreign Ministry [of Russia] denounced Turkey's attempts to restrict the passage of ships through Bosporus and Dardanelles, and last fall, it criticized the "Turkic summit" in Istanbul, attended by Turkey and five post-Soviet Central Asian states. Turkey did not hesitate to pay back in kind. Ankara voiced its official concern over Russia's actions in Chechnya, although all other states deemed that issue as "Russia's domestic problem."

Official Kiev is demonstrating traditional temperance and does not venture forming an alliance, perhaps due to psychological reasoning, given that political journals are all packed with articles about a threat of a global opposition between the South and the North. However, if that opposition results in the opposition between the Islamic world and Russia, Ukraine's place will undoubtedly be on the southern side of the barricades. On the other hand, Leonid Kuchma's active relations with Central Asia, as well as the Chechen contacts of Ukrainian National Assembly leaders Dmytro Korchynskyy and Anatoliy Lupynis, are objectively pushing Ukraine southwards.

As usual, Ukrainian entrepreneurs were the first to understand the advantageous nature of relations with the Turkic-Arab world. Aside from the construction of the Turkish oil pipeline, the Ukrainian specialists will probably initiate a similar project in Iran. The Ukrainian company for the construction of oil and gas installations abroad ["Ukrzakordonnaftohazbud"] has received an order to reconstruct an oil terminal in Lebanon. According to secretary of the Ukrainian Embassy in Israel Oleksandr Maydannyk, the leadership of the Palestinian autonomy has suggested that Ukraine build electric power stations on Palestinian territory. It is the Near East which hosts one of the few Ukrainian-foreign joint ventures operating abroad. The Donetsk "Nord" joint stock association has opened a freezer plant in Jordan. If such contacts continue to develop they will provide Ukraine with oil, hard currency, and political support.

National Affairs

Marchuk Views Black Sea Fleet Issues

AU0901170895 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 Jan 95 p 1

[Statement by Ukraine's First Vice Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, "recorded" by Volodymyr Oliynyk; place and date not given: "The Black Sea Fleet Problem Is the Most Serious One in the Relations Between Russia and Ukraine"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the news conference, the last in 1994, Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's first vice prime minister, together with Borys Tarasyuk, Ukraine's first deputy minister of foreign affair, and Borys Sobolyev, Ukraine's deputy minister of finance, gave a joint news conference, mainly on issues of Ukrainian-Russian relations on the eve of signing the long-discussed full-scale agreement on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Russia. Of course, there arose the question of whether it is possible to cooperate with Russia, which is waging war in Chechnya and which has been putting pressure upon Ukraine for so many years, having, in fact, deployed its navy on our territory in the guise of the Black Sea Fleet. Here is what Yevhen Marchuk said on the subject:

"We are not overdramatizing the situation, but the problem of the Black Sea Fleet is among the most serious in Russian-Ukrainian relations. Work is conducted in a sure and determined manner, but there are numerous problems that emerge as a result of raising the Black Sea Fleet problem to the level of negotiations. The Ukrainian side has submitted a number of projects, so-called lesser accords, which envisage a resolution to the Black Sea Fleet problem from 'below' and partly from the 'top.' We already have concrete documents on which we work with the Russian side, something that, as you know, has never happened before, since everybody used only conceptual formulas, signed by the presidents of Ukraine and Russia.

"What are our differences with Russia? Without going into much detail, they lie (largely) in the approach toward the structure of the Black See Fleet basing in Ukraine and in the approach to determining the ownership of the infrastructure. The Russian side consecutively conducts its own policy in the negotiations on the fleet, and we—Ukraine—also pursue our own policy. The only difference is in the fact that we are dealing with a fleet that has its bases on the territory of Ukraine. The Ukrainian side proposed that the Russian Fleet be based on the Black Sea, proceeding from the estimates prepared by military and military and technical specialists, and our proposal has a detailed substantiation, incidentally in writing, that we passed over to the Russian side.

"At the same time, the substantiation on basing the infrastructure on the Black Sea by the Russians does not even exist in a written form—at any rate, it has not been

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given to the Ukrainian side. Upon our insistence, it was decided that each side should prepare such written substantiations of its own view of the necessary infrastructure. This is a relatively new element in the negotiating process on the Black Sea Fleet, an element that provides for documenting the entire negotiating process. Why do I put emphasis on this? Because now, as we go deep into resolving the Black Sea Fleet problem, we emerge, more than once, at a situation where one side or another refers to former statements by a particular president regarding the Black Sea Fleet. Unfortunately, there is no documented protocol; protocols on talks between presidents are a different thing: They are incapable of providing an in-depth treatment of resolving the problem.

"Let me remind you that there is a narrow formula, in accordance with which 'the two fleets have separate [narizni] bases.' What does the word 'separate' mean? I understand it in my way, and the Russian side understands it in a different way. I understand it proceeding from Ukraine's legislation and the Russians understand it as proceeding from their own interests. Despite all of this, the formula has the word 'separate'! So references are made to something that the presidents had in their minds and negotiated on. Right, we do not deny this. However, there is no in-depth treatment of this formula. The Zavidovo Accord, in its second paragraph, has an inventory of the entire Black Sea infrastructure, and then it is written: 'Subject to 50-50 division.' However, it is not quite clear what a 50-50 'division' means. Whose property is the initial property? The 50-50 division, proceeding from the fact that it is all Ukraine's property, and then this property is divided into two parts and one-half is leased to Russia? Or that the 50-50 means that everything is granted to Russia for free for using the infrastructure on Ukrainian land and so on?

"Well, the formulas seem to be correct, but absolutely lacking in detail. At first, it was expected that special commissions would be created for specifying and deepening these agreements. Unfortunately, nothing came from it. Therefore, there are a number of serious differences in the Black Sea Fleet problem, but there is progress even in these differences. It concerns the principles of leasing, and here both sides have nearly arrived at a similar understanding; there is certain compromise on the Russian side regarding the position it occupied in midsummer of 1994.

"There also are such steps on the Ukrainian side, but clearly, without reaching an understanding regarding the territory of Ukraine and its ownership of the infrastructure it will be difficult for us to go ahead. At the same time, the two presidents are preparing a declaration in which they are trying to state their principles of resolving the Black Sea Fleet problem. Without specifying stations of basing and so on. This is because, unfortunately, the inventory of the Black Sea Fleet property was not made in such a way as to enable us to get the documents for studying the situation right away. There is nothing to talk about without estimating the price of the property. When Ukraine started finding out in depth and on its own initiative in what state the vessels will be that are transferred to it and whether they will be fully equipped, it turned out that Ukraine may be palmed off with a fleet that will take more than one year and will cost us much hard currency to scrap.

"At the same time, it seems to me that the problem of the Black Sea Fleet may be resolved stage by stage, as was planned in the Moscow Agreement. First a declaration by the presidents on the principles of dividing and resolving the problem and then a detailed piece-by-piece evaluation of the fleet."

DSU Condemns 'Sycophants,' Leads Protest

AU1001105195 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 5 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by Volodymyr Yavorskyy, member of the leadership of the DSU Association: "Moscow's Sycophants"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia's armed aggression against Chechnya is a cynical denial of the Chechen people's natural right to self-determination. The blood of people who are fighting for their independence is being shed in the Caucasus. The Russians are killing Chechen villagers and destroying settlements with tanks and artillery. The country's capital, Groznyy, is being bombed by the Russian Air Force causing deaths among the civilian population, including women and children.

Ukraine has no right to sit back and watch the suffering of the Chechen people and should not remain a silent observer of how Russia is treating the Chechens. The position of noninterference, which has been taken by the Ukrainian Government regarding the events in Chechnya, is a disgrace for Ukraine. Not only because the Russian Army is committing savage murder there, but also because, having dealt with Chechnya, Russia will, sooner or later, launch its hordes against the Ukrainian people. The mass slaughter of Ukrainians in Ukraine itself is bound to come as a punishment for the indifference to the Chechen tragedy.

In this connection, to express its indignation against the extermination of the Chechen people by the Russians, the leadership of the national association "Ukrainian State Independence" (DSU) planned a protest action in front of the Russian Embassy in Kiev in the form of picketing and the burning of the Russian flag.

On 22 December at 1500, up to 20 DSU members, headed by Association Chairman Roman Koval, gathered near the embassy building. The entire lane where the Russian Embassy is located had been cordoned off by the police. That is why the pickets grouped on the corner of Kutuzov Street. Slogans were raised: "Butchers, Get Out of the Chechen Land!" and "Yeltsin, How Much Human Blood Is Enough for You?!..."

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There soon appeared a police representative of the rank of colonel, who announced that no permission had been granted to carry out picketing and that the action had to be halted. DSU Chairman Koval explained that such a demand was illegal, since permits are normally needed for holding mass meetings, whereas picketing does not fall into this category, being an action that does not create any danger to civil peace. However, this did not impress the colonel, who continued to insist on his demand.

Meanwhile, the DSU members had begun to unfurl the Russian flag in order to burn it. At that moment, somebody from the police cried out: "They are going to burn a flag!" At that very moment, some athletic fellows from the [special-purpose] "Berkut" subdivision rushed at the pickets to seize the tricolor from them. Confusion and shoving lasted for a few minutes. As a result, 10 participants in the action, namely DSU head Roman Koval, member of the DSU leadership Volodymyr Yavorskyy, and activists of the association Oleksandr Kovalynskyy, Svyatoslav Lukyanenko, Vira Kadyuk, Halyna Harkusha, Viktor Sukovenko, Ivan Peleshchuk, Renat Polyovyy, and Petro Feshchenko were bundled into a police bus. There, the "Berkut" men continued demonstrating their "remarkable courage" by beating up those detained. Oleksandr Kovalynskyy, with whom three policemen "talked" at the back of the bus, was particularly severely beaten.

Finally, all the pickets were taken to the Pechersk Rayon Police Station, where charges were filed against every participant for causing a public disturbance. At 9 p.m., the head of the Pechersk Rayon Court, Stanislav Kuksa, arrived and immediately got down to trying the detainees.

It must be pointed out that Judge Kuksa behaved in a manner obviously incompatible with his high position as judge. While considering the case, he tried to insult the accused with disgusting remarks, which prompted the same type of verbal abuse.

Judge Kuksa found all the participants in the picketing guilty of holding an "unauthorized demonstration" and dismissed them with a caution. He also characterized the actions by the "Berkut," who had prevented the picketing and protected the Russian flag from being burned, as perfectly legitimate.

Assessing the events described above, one can only say this: The Ukrainian authorities showed a shameless sycophancy toward Moscow. The order to dispel pickets may only be accounted for by a desire on the part of the rulers in Kiev to gain favor with Russia and to show their loyalty by distancing themselves from the "small group of nationalist extremists." Thereby the authorities of the Ukrainian state have once again attested to their servility.

Undoubtedly, with this act, the Ukrainian authorities will arouse contempt for themselves throughout the world, including in Moscow, because nobody has respect for sycophants. Indeed, the overreaction on the part of the Kiev police, compared with the background of the numerous protest actions on various occasions in other countries, which nobody breaks up, is so striking that it cannot remain unnoticed and will inevitably become public knowledge.

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Belarus

Chyhir, Russian Sign Economic Agreements

LD1001120995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 10 Jan 95

[By BELINFORM correspondent Mikhail Zhuravovich for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk January 10 TASS—The signing of the package of agreements between Belarus and Russia turns a new page in economic integration between the two republics, Byelorussian [Belarusian] Premier Mikhail Chyhir told a news conference devoted to the results of talks in Minsk between government delegations of the two neighbouring republics.

According to Chyhir each of seven documents signed during the Byelorussian visit by Russian Vice Premier Aleksey Bolshakov is of great importance.

They will largely help to create equal conditions for economic activities in both states, for trade with single inside prices and for repealing customs duties which will make goods cheaper.

Elections Committee Releases 1995 Schedule

WS1001111595 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1835 GMT 09 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Central Committee for Elections and Nationwide Referendums has made public the schedule of the principal election arrangements for the elections to the Supreme Soviet. According to the schedule, the nomination to the composition of election commissions in districts are to be carried out before 22 February; the regional and Minsk-City executive committees are to confirm the commissions from 23 to 27 February. The election blocs should be registered at the Central Committee before 9 March. The nomination for election to the Supreme Soviet is to be carried out from 5 March to 3 April; their registration—from 4 to 13 April; meetings of the candidates with voters—before 13 May; the publication of the results of the elections—no later than the fifth day after the elections, i.e. before 19 May.

Journalists on Mass Media, Censorship

WS1001121895 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 6 Jan 95 p 3

[Appeal by the Union of Belarusian Journalists to the International Confederation of Journalist Trade Unions and the International Federation of Journalists; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text]**It is bitter to realize that journalism these days is becoming one of the most dangerous professions. It is painful to learn that yet another colleague has passed away. While performing their professional duty, journalists are dying in hot spots, as well as at their editorial offices and apartments. The best of us are dying for the truth, for their honesty, uncompromising attitude, and unwillingness to become a lackey and to obediently fulfill someone else's will.**

Truth knows no fear. Journalists, who present people with true and objective information, know no fear either. They defend the truth in the most unfavorable and dramatic circumstances.

The situation of mass media in any country is a precise barometer indicating the situation of democracy as a whole. In Belarus, the reading on this barometer has reached a critical point. The unprecedented cases of publishing the SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, ZVYAZDA, and RESPUBLIKA newspapers with huge blank spaces instead of People's Deputy Syarhey Antonchyk's report on corruption within Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's team, as well as the failure to publish NARODNAYA GAZETA, testify to the fact that an even more stringent presidential censorship has replaced the party dictate.

SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA Editor in Chief Ihar Asinski has been relieved of his duties unilaterally, without consent from a full cofounder of the newspaper—the staff—by virtue of a presidential decree. RESPUBLIKA Editor in Chief Mikalay Kernoha has been dismissed. The same fate is awaiting other chief editors of nationwide Belarusian newspapers. The Belarusian press has not experienced such scandalous arbitrariness from authorities during the entire history of its existence.

The largest printing basis in our country—the Belarusian Printing House—is most stringently controlled by the presidential administration. One telephone call from the presidential team, which the president selected according to the principle of personal devotion, is enough to stop publishing any newspaper. At the president's instruction, the SVABODA, FEMIDA, and BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA independent newspapers, as well as other publications have been denied the right to be published. This is a gross violation of people's constitutional right to obtain free information and is a manifestation of totalitarianism and dictatorship.

It is alarming and dangerous that all this is attributed to the first Belarusian president, in whose good intentions many people who elected him to this post believed. Currently, having been deprived of many things and driven to extreme poverty and despair, people are being deprived of the possibility of obtaining objective information.

The emergency situation of the Belarusian mass media gives us the right to rely on moral support from our colleagues, as well as on international journalist solidarity in the battle for the freedom of speech, democracy, and everyone's right to obtain free information.

We request that our appeal be disseminated in all journalist unions.

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[Signed] entities of the International Confederation of Journalist Unions and the International Federation of Journalists.

Moldova

Deputy 'Confirms' Dniester Volunteers in Chechnya

AU0901162095 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2151 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, ROMPRES, 6/1/1995—Russian Federal Council Deputy Chairman Valerian Viktorov confirmed the information that Dniester volunteers take part in Chechen events on Dudayev's side. At a recent press conference held by Viktorov in Moscow upon his arrival from Moldova, he said that "crime has no boundaries. As a rule, these are the same criminals who are ready to kill for money anyone and anywhere." Viktorov said that the attempt to preserve a socialist state in Dniester filed. Earlier 14th Army commander Aleksandr Lebed criticized the Dniester leaders. Commenting on this, Viktorov said that it is difficult for him to appraise these statements and "certain conclusions should be drawn from the statements made by Lebed." As to Chisinau-Tiraspol relations, Viktorov noted that "after the changes in the Moldovan leadership, people who were not involved in any bloody events of the 1992 have come to power. The current leadership not only opposes unification with Romania but also states that it does not primarily orient toward the West." In Viktorov's opinion, Moldova's adherence to all CIS structures might facilitate the Dniester conflict settlement. The Russian Federal Council deputy chairman also said that the 14th Army's transformation into a Russian military base "in principle, is not rejected by the Moldovan leadership, though it invokes Moldovan Constitutional provisions according to which on Moldovan territory no foreign military formation should be deployed."

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Kazakhstan

Kazakh Speaker Optimistic on Relations With Israel

LD0901125795 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, regular flights will start 12 January between Israel and Kazakhstan. Today, on board the Tu-154 airliner which was carrying out a technical flight on the Almaty-Tel Aviv-Almaty route was Abish Kekilbayev, the speaker of Kazakhstan's parliament, who gave this interview to our correspondent Amir Omirbekov:

[Begin recording] [Omirbekov] Abish Kekilbayevich, what are the aims and tasks of your visit to Israel?

[Kekilbayev] My visit is purely private. I am the personal guest of the speaker of the Israeli Knesset. But despite that the program for my visit envisions meetings with the president of the State of Israel, the prime minister, the foreign minister, and also the head of the Israeli Knesset and there may be other competent meetings.

[Omirbekov] Will any official documents be signed during your visit?

[Kekilbayev] As my visit is unofficial we will probably not sign any documents this time. But despite that our visit will play a very constructive role in deepening cooperation between Israel and Kazakhstan, which needs legal guarantees, and is difficult to implement without direct contacts between the two parliaments.

As for the further deepening of our bilateral relations, we attach great importance to the forthcoming visit by Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to Kazakhstan, as a result of which it is expected that eight documents will be signed, where certainly our economic interests will dominate. At the same time we do not conceal that Kazakhstan is interested in deepening the process of reducing tension and the improving the peace process and mutual cooperation among the states of the Middle East. And we note with great satisfaction those positive steps made thanks to the unusual approach of the Israeli leadership, as a result of which such important documents as the agreement with Jordan and Palestine were signed. We hope that these processes will be developed further.

Such a regime of cooperation in the Middle East, of course, will influence the morale climate in the states of Central Asia, and this makes a great impression on the conceptual basis of Kazakhstan's initiative on establishing continental security. [end recording]

Russia Offered Help to Resolve Chechen Conflict

LD0901151195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1423 GMT 9 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Akimov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Alma Ata [Almaty] January 9 TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev telephoned Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Monday [9 January] to tell him that he is ready to "exert specific personal effort to end the confrontation (in Chechnya) by peaceful means."

Nazarbayev "offered Russia humanitarian aid for the peaceful population of Chechnya," the Kazakh presidential press service said.

The press service reiterated Kazakhstan's official position that "the tragic conflict is an internal matter of the Russian Federation, but it should have been resolved through negotiations and mutual concessions."

"The Kazakhstan president's initiative is based on the dominating feelings in society," the press service said.

Baykonur Will Not Become a Russian Military Base

MM1001110995 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Dec 94

[From the "Vremya" newscast: video report from Baykonur by Aleksandr Onosovskiy, identified by caption]

[Text] [181633] [Onosovskiy] The Baykonur Cosmodrome is a unique scientific and technical complex. Fifteen launch pads for carriers of various classes are located on its territory, as well as eleven assembly and test complexes which are essentially complete plants, and many other important facilities including the city of Leninsk, the administrative center, with a population of some 60,000, mostly servicemen and their families—Russian Federation citizens whose legal status has finally been clarified. On the basis of an agreement between the governments of the two states the cosmodrome, including the entire infrastructure, is being leased from Kazakhstan for a period of 20 years.

Boris Ostroumov, deputy general director of the Space Agency, assured journalists that Baykonur will not become a Russian military base. Most of the facilities will be used for scientific and national economic needs, and will be administered by the Russian Space Agency. Sure, many people quite rightly believe that, just as in the past, people in uniform will be responsible for everything here. It is no accident that a Russian officer has been appointed head of Leninsk City Administration. He will have a hard job. Today whole streets of the once prestigious city lie in ruins. No one knows whether Kazakhstani citizens will abide by Russian laws which have now become binding for all. Right now more than 10,000 people live in the city without any right to do so. In addition to the annual rent of $115 million, much money will be needed to ensure the normal operation of the cosmodrome. Come what may, these problems will have to be solved. There is no other way. The Russian space industry, which employs hundreds of thousands of people, cannot manage without Baykonur.

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Kyrgyzstan

Uighur Activists Warned Against Secessionist 'Agitation'

LD0901130795 Bishkek ASABA in Kyrgyz 6 Jan 95 p 1

["Don't Forget—To Our Uighur Relatives"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Supreme Council deputy N.Kendzhiyev, who is the chairman of the Uighurs' cultural center "Unity," and A.Baudinov and A.Gaziyev, leaders of the Uighur Freedom Organization, who have refused to register at the Ministry of Justice, have conducted unlawful activities by agitating the ethnic Uighur people in our republic. They have proposed the secession of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Republic, which is within the People's Republic of China, from China and the creation of a self-sufficient country in the north.

But such activities are against our republic's laws and international norms, and on these grounds the republican prosecutor's office has issued them a warning. Under international law this is viewed as interference in the internal affairs of a foreign country and it will arouse doubts in the friendly relations of the Kyrgyz and Chinese peoples and in our republic's international authority.

If they disregard the warning and repeat the violation of the constitution and the law these people will answer before the law.

Opposition Bloc Criticizes Election Preparations

LD1001102395 Osh EKHO OSHA in Russian 3 Jan 95 p 1

["Statement" issued by the Kurmandzhan Datka electoral bloc]

[FBIS Translated Text] The shortcomings in election legislation and the acute lack of time forces us, members of the Erkin Kyrgyzstan party (ErK), the movement of the democratic intelligentsia, Rukh (Zhany Demilge), the social charity movement, Tyurk Atanyn baldary, the Strely Azii political club, the Muslim Democratic Association, the Tatar and Bashkir ethnic and cultural center, Ilkayim, independent candidates in the elections for parliamentary deputies, the society of ethnic Turks of Kyrgyzstan Tyurk Ata, the Union of Students and Union of Students of Osh State University, and several other public associations who make up the Kurmandzhan Datka bloc to appeal to the leaders of the Central Electoral Commission, the constituency electoral commissions, and regional and district headquarters for helping conduct the elections to the Supreme Council and make the following request:

That funds be allocated to prepare and publish campaign materials setting out election manifestos in brief. First, the electorate will cast their votes not for posters containing autobiographies of candidates but for their manifestos. Second, candidates are put in a disadvantageous and unequal situation in advance: Those who do not have private transportation and the necessary amount of money do not have the physical ability to go round their own constituencies and meet all the voters. This is why not all the candidates support the proposals of the less well-off colleagues to make an individual contribution to the constituency's special fund for printing manifesto leaflets.

Not all of the constituencies have included on polling station commissions representatives from public associations, ethnic and cultural centers, and political parties although there was a special appeal from the Central Electoral Commission, and it is required by the law on elections and the work plan of the Central Electoral Commission and constituency commissions. This is why we are reasonably expressing our lack of confidence in the chairmen and staff of many polling station commissions. The situation can be rectified in only one way: by admitting public observers to polling stations on election day. The number of agents for candidates is evidently insufficient to prevent violations.

Numerous meetings with voters have shown that almost nobody knows the voting procedure. This important part of the elections must be explained in the media by constituency commissions, lawyers, and political experts.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Addresses Tashkent Regional Council

LD1001115095 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first session of the Tashkent regional council was convened for the first time in the capital of Uzbekistan today.

[Unidentified correspondent] Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov participated in the session's work and made a big speech in which he warmly wished the deputies a happy new year and great successes in the forthcoming work of deputies in the regional council which was elected on a democratic and alternative basis. It was stressed that the recent elections to the Supreme Assembly and to local councils showed again our republic's adherence to the construction of a renewed, law-based state and to creating a strong social infrastructure. [passage omitted]

Islam Karimov particularly dwelled on the role and place of leaders in carrying out the policy of renewing our society. A leader should not wait for directives from above: he should be courageous enough to make responsible decisions and be an active, enterprising, and competent specialist. Today we have a number of difficulties, but we have to seek new approaches, re-form promptly,

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and find markets for our products. It is necessary to broaden the range of products of mechanical engineering and create goods which will be competitive on the world market.

[Begin Karimov recording] Anyway, we demand from you that you reconstruct yourselves more quickly. It is necessary to orient yourselves in this complicated situation more quickly and find the right decisions. The only right decision is to find new markets, the only right decision is to find new suppliers. And at the same time work in accordance with the principle that if your product is valued somewhere, only then will we have money. You see, the fact is that we will survive only when we deliver not only cotton to Russia, but your products as well. If any products of mechanical engineering or any other products are delivered there, then there will be normal financial ties too. Russian currency will appear with which you will be able to buy parts and everything that is necessary. This is elementary. [end recording]

Speaking about improving the situation in the region, the Uzbek president stressed that thorough work is necessary in the selection and placing of personnel. Here he particularly focussed on the role of the top leader on whom, in many respects, the ultimate success of our common task depends.

The session considered an organizational question. Erkin Ruziyev was approved as head of the Tashkent regional administration.

President Islam Karimov concluded by wishing great successes for the workers of Tashkent region, and he noted that in 1995 our republic will fulfill everything planned and from 1996 the improvement of independent Uzbekistan's economy will begin.

The appropriate resolution on the results of the session was adopted. First Deputy prime Minister Ismail Jurabekov and State Councillor Temir Alimov took part in the work of the session.

Residence Permits for Foreigners

LD0601174395 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 27 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Regulations on residence permits for foreigners and stateless persons in the Republic of Uzbekistan and identity cards for stateless persons. Appendix No. 2 to Uzbek presidential decree of 23 December 1994.

I. General regulations

1. The residence permit in the Republic of Uzbekistan for foreigners and the residence permit in the Republic of Uzbekistan for persons without citizenship is a document identifying their persons, as well as a document that gives the right to live in the Republic of Uzbekistan and is valid on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The identity card of the stateless person is a document identifying the bearer abroad.

2. The following persons permanently living on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan and who are not citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan require residence permits:

—People who have proof of citizenship of a foreign state;

—People who do not have citizenship of another state.

3. Residence permits are issued to:

—Foreign citizens or stateless persons upon reaching 16 years of age;

—Persons who have legally lost citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

—Persons who have abandoned citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan legally.

4. Residence permits for foreigners and identity cards for stateless persons are issued by internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the places of permanent address of a foreigner or stateless person.

5. Identity cards for stateless persons are issued to stateless persons permanently living in the Republic of Uzbekistan who temporarily leave for abroad.

II. Stamps in Residence Permits in the Republic of Uzbekistan for Foreigners and Stateless Persons and Identity Cards for the Stateless Persons, Their Expiry Dates

6. Residence permits for foreigners and stateless persons and identity cards for stateless persons are made on special forms with protective measures. This form bears the insignia of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Residence permits have 16 pages and the identity card for stateless persons has 8 pages.

7. Residence permits for foreigners and stateless persons, as well as identity cards for stateless persons are filled in by internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Uzbek, Russian, and English. The following information is contained in the documents:

in the residence permits for foreigners and stateless citizens:

—Surname, first name, patronymic;

—Date, month, year of birth;

—Place of birth;

—Nationality;

—Citizenship on the day of arrival in the Republic of Uzbekistan;

—Marital status;

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—Date of arrival to the Republic of Uzbekistan;

—Purpose of visit;

—Who issued the residence permit and when;

—On the grounds of what documents the residence permit was

issued;

—Expiry date of the residence permit;

—Children;

—Prolongation of the residence permit;

—Permission for residence;

—Registration;

—Special remarks (blood group etc.);

—Instruction leaflet for the residence permit in the Republic

of Uzbekistan.

In the identity card for stateless persons:

—Surname, first name, patronymic;

—Year and place of birth;

—Who issued the identity card for stateless persons and when;

—Country headed for;

—Accompanying children;

—Visas;

—Expiry date of the identity card for stateless persons.

With the consent of citizens, medical institutions make notes in the resident permits on the blood group of their holders.

8. The resident permits for foreigners and stateless persons and identity cards for stateless persons must contain black and white or color photos 35x45mm in size, the signatures of its owner, and the official who issued the document.

9. Resident permits for foreigners and stateless persons are issued for a term of five years or permanently. The identity card for stateless person is issued for a term of two years.

III. The Grounds and Terms for Issuing Residence Permits for Foreigners and Stateless Persons and Identity Cards for Stateless Persons

10. To receive a residence permit for foreigners and stateless persons and an identity card for a stateless person, the following documents shall be produced to the internal affairs bodies at the place of their permanent residence:

a) In order to receive a residence permit:

—An application made according to the form established by the

Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

—A valid national passport;

—A document issued by the competent bodies on the forfeiture of

citizenship;

—A birth certificate (when receiving it first);

—Previously issued residence permit;

—Five photos, size 35-45mm, black and white or color;

—Residence certificates indicating family members;

—Marriage certificate (if legally married).

b) To receive an identity card for a stateless person:

—An application made according to the form established by the

Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

—Residence permit for the stateless person.

11. The exchange of a residence permit and identity card for a stateless person is made in the cases of:

—Changing the surname, name and patronymic;

—Ascertainment of inaccuracies in records;

—The pages intended for registration remarks (visas) being

full;

—Worthlessness for usage.

12. To exchange residence permits and an identity card for a stateless person and extend the period of validity of residence permits, the following shall be produced:

—An application in the due form;

—Residence permit;

—Identity card of the stateless person;

—Five photos, size 35-45mm, black and white or color;

—A valid national passport.

For exchange in connection with the change of a name, a surname and patronymic or inaccuracies being found in records, documents confirming these circumstances shall be produced.

13. For receiving or changing a residence permit, a citizen should produce the documents and photos not later than one month after coming of age or changing a

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surname, name or patronymic, or finding inaccuracies in records or the worthlessness of the residence permit.

14. Information on children under age, as well as notes on marriage registration should be inserted in the residence permit being exchanged or to replace a lost one by the internal affairs bodies.

15. A residence permit and identity card of a deceased stateless person shall be handed over to the bodies of the registry office which direct it after registration of death to the internal affairs bodies at place of residence.

16. People under arrest as well as convicted people will be deprived of the residence permit by the bodies of inquiry, preliminary investigation or by a court and it will be sent to the internal affairs bodies at the place of their residence. A residence permit or identity card of a stateless person shall be returned to the holder when releasing him or after his serving the punishment.

17. A fee shall be collected for issuing and extending the validity of a residence permit and identity card of a stateless person; the amount of this fee is set by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

18. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall establish examples of the emblem and visa seals, stamps and forms necessary for implementing the provision on the residence permit in the Republic of Uzbekistan

19. A foreign citizen or a stateless person shall immediately report the loss of a residence permit to the internal affairs bodies located at the place of the loss which shall give him a certificate in established form. The form of the certificate shall be established by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

20. Upon losing the identity card of a stateless person, the stateless person must immediately inform the internal affairs bodies at the place of the loss, or the diplomatic representative office or consular establishment of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad.

21. A person who has lost his residence permit or identity card of a stateless person must apply to the internal affairs bodies at the place of his permanent residence for them to issue a new residence permit or identity card of a stateless person and provide a receipt that state duty has been paid.

If a person loses a residence permit or identity card of the stateless person, a new residence permit or identity card of a stateless person shall be given in the procedure established by this provision.

22. In all cases applications for the issue of residence permits and identity cards of stateless persons shall be considered by the internal affairs bodies within 15 days.

23. Residence permits and identity cards found must be handed over to the internal affairs bodies.

24. The confiscation of a residence permit and identity card of a stateless person from foreign citizens and stateless persons is forbidden except in cases stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as is using it as a deposit and giving it to other persons.

25. A foreign citizen and a stateless person must keep the residence permit and identity card of a stateless person carefully.

'Open Door' Policy for Investment Viewed

LD0701105895 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 5 Dec 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The state committee for managing state property and supporting enterprise in the Republic of Uzbekistan is open for investments: possibilities, guarantees, privileges.

"Sovereign Uzbekistan is interested in the broadest cooperation with all the countries of the world while solving its main task—to dynamically and consistently, without national shocks, go over to market relations and lay a mighty economic basis under our growing statehood which will ensure the effective use of all the potential of resources, the stable development of the economy and the accession of the republic to the category of economically developed countries which enjoy high standards of living." I.A.Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The open door policy is the basis for transition to the market social and economic provision.

The Republic of Uzbekistan was founded on 31 August 1991. Its territory is 447,800 sq km, total population is 22 million people, the average age is 23.9.

The advantageous geopolitical position, favorable climate, rich natural resources and high cultural and educational level of the population create all the necessary preconditions for the integration of the republic into the world economic system, turning it into an original center joining the West with the East, the South and the North.

The consistent and considered policy of the government and political stability are the basis of success of the market reforms which are underway in the republic. Attracting foreign investments is one of the most important areas being worked on at present. The government's course on implementing the open door policy has created favorable conditions for foreign investors and has broadened the possibilities for Uzbek entrepreneurs to enter the world market.

Foreign investors in Uzbekistan.

Over 1,300 joint-stock ventures with authorized funds of 82.5 million soms and about $46 million have been registered in Uzbekistan. Among them are such well-known firms as Newmont, Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola (USA), Rank Xerox (Great Britain), Mercedes Benz

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(Germany), the Daewoo corporation (Republic of Korea), Bursel (Turkey), and Buller (Switzerland).

The project for privatizing the republic's tobacco industry jointly with the company BAT Investments, which is one of the world's largest tobacco producers and suppliers, has been completed. About $300 million will be invested in the economy of the republic.

Foreign economic relations.

Today the Republic of Uzbekistan has firm political and economic relations with various countries of the world: the USA, Germany, France, Great Britain, Japan, China, Turkey and others. Uzbekistan is an associate member of GATT.

At present the USA, Turkey, China, Indonesia, and other countries have given credits to the republic. Germany, France, Italy, India, and Japan are considering proposals on giving credits. Agreements on mutual protection of credits have been concluded with Turkey, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Finland, the Republic of Korea, the USA, and France. Agreements with other countries are being prepared for signing.

The National Bank for Foreign Economic Activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan has correspondent relations with 157 major banks of the world.

The priorities of investment policy.

An investment program has been worked out for creating favorable conditions for foreign investors. The priority spheres are:

—Consumer goods production using advanced technologies;

—Deep processing of agricultural produce;

—Organizing ecologically clean enterprises for mining and processing mineral and raw material resources;

—Realizing environmental measures at existing enterprises;

—Reprocessing industrial and household waste;

—Production of radio-electronic and instrument-making industries;

—Organizing modern information and telecommunications systems;

—Production of resource and energy saving equipment;

—Production of medicines and medical equipment;

—Development of the tourist industry.

Governmental and nongovernmental international organizations of other countries render the republic assistance with a view to support the program of economic reforms and develop enterprise, including the World Bank, United Nations, CEC (Commission of the European Communities), GTC (German Technical Center), USAID (the U.S. Agency for International Development), and others.

Guarantees and privileges.

The legislative and legal basis for the transition to market relations has been created in the republic and is reflected in the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, presidential decrees and government resolutions on developing and supporting enterprise, denationalization and privatization, foreign economic activities, guarantees for the activities of foreign investors, securities, banks and banking activities, insurance, stock exchanges, and stock-exchange activities.

The following broad guarantees have been extended in accordance with them, in particular:

—Insurance against political risk (the Uzbekinvest national insurance company works in Uzbekistan for these purposes and the international company, Uzbekinvest International, with authorized capital of $100 million, has also been created).

—Insurance against nationalization and requisition;

—The remittance abroad of profits and other money in foreign currency as the result of legal activities:

—The reinvestment of profits obtained on the territory of the republic or using them at the proprietor's own discretion;

—The application to foreign investors for 10 years of legislation which was in force at the time of investment, if subsequent legislation worsens the investment conditions;

—Compensation by state bodies of losses (through the courts) caused by the adoption of normative acts which infringe the rights of foreign investors.

A number of legal and economic privileges are also envisaged for foreign investors, including:

—Unimpeded export of their own produce without licenses;

—No customs duties on goods imported to the republic;

—Exemption from taxes of part of the proceeds of enterprises which have foreign investments which are reinvested in the expansion of production and technological modernization;

—Provision of free access by foreign natural and legal persons to the process of privatizing state property, including extensive sales of real estate, and purchasing up to 100 percent of the shares in privatized enterprises.

Infrastructure institutions of the investment market The Investments' Assistance Service (IAS) was set up under the Cabinet of Ministers and the real estate and foreign

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investments agency (REFIA) was set up at the State Property Committee to coordinate and render assistance in attracting foreign investments.

A system of market infrastructure institutions has been created, which includes investment funds and banks, insurance companies, the republican stock-exchange, the real estate exchange, the commodity and raw materials exchange and the currency exchange.

The institutions listed below are engaged in registering joint-stock ventures, accreditation, licensing, insurance, taxation, customs regulation, privatization, and financial issues:

Cabinet of Ministers: coordinates registration of joint-stock ventures and affiliated enterprises of foreign firms which make large investments. Government House, Tashkent 700008. Fax: 39-84-63

Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations: accredits foreign firms, registers entities carrying out economic activities as participants of foreign economic activities, issues licenses for the export/import of goods (works and services). 75, Buyuk Ipak Yuli St., Tashkent 700077. Tel: 68-92-56 Fax: 68-72-31

State Committee for Managing State Property and Supporting Enterprise: works on issues of privatization, the registration of enterprises which have foreign investments with the participation of state capital. 6, Mustakillik Av., Tashkent 700008. Tel: 39-82-03. Fax: 39-49-66

Ministry of Finance: registers ventures with foreign investments. 5, Mustakillik Av., Tashkent 700008. Tel: 39-15-69. Fax: 44-56-43

State Taxation Committee (STC): deals with taxation issues. 4, Abai St., Tashkent 700195. Tel: 41-70-97. Fax: 42-82-20

Main Customs Directorate at the STC: deals with customs regulation issues. 35, Druzhba Narodov St., Tashkent 700185. Tel: 76-76-35. Fax: 72-92-43

Central Bank: deals with currency regulation and control issues. 6, Uzbekistanskiy Av., Tashkent 700001. Tel: 33-68-29. Fax: 33-35-09

National Bank for Foreign Economic Activities: the largest bank authorized to conduct operations in foreign currency. 23, Akhunbabayev St., Tashkent 700047. Tel: 33-84-25. Fax: 33-32-00

Ministry for Foreign Affairs: visa issues. 9, Uzbekistanskiy Av., Tashkent 700001 Tel: 39-15-17. Fax: 39-43-48

REFIA: assists in attracting foreign investments. 5, Mustakillik Sq., Tashkent 700008. Tel: 39-42-05. Fax: 39-49-66

Republican Stock Exchange: creates conditions for the circulation of securities and determines their market prices. 45, Uzbekistanskiy Av., Tashkent 700003. Tel: 45-80-65. Fax: 45-76-78

Republican Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange: meets the republic's requirements in commodity and raw materials resources. 7, Navoi St., Tashkent 700028. Tel: 41-38-54

Republican Real Estate Exchange: sells real estate. 6, Mayakovskiy St., Tashkent 700000 Tel: 67-32-71. Fax: 32-55-56

Uzbekinvest, national company for insuring domestic and foreign investments: insures large investment projects from political and other risks. 5, Mustakillik Sq., Tashkent 700078. Tel: 39-15-69. Fax: 44-56-43

National Investment Fund for Privatization: issues and places shares, represents the interests of small investors, accumulates free financial resources. 24, Amir Temur St., Tashkent 700000. Tel: 33-40-01

Prospects and priorities for 1995.

Proceeding from accumulated experience and the achievements of privatization abroad the aim has been set in state and regional programs for this year to bring the private sector production share to 60 percent of the total volume of production in Uzbekistan.

The following priorities have been envisaged:

1. Moving the center of gravity for implementing the process of privatization to territorial branches of the State Property Committee.

2. Demonopolization of existing management structures and the formation of a competitive environment.

3. Transition to the denationalization of base industries—mining, the fuel and energy complex and cotton processing industry.

4. Deepening the process of the privatization of large enterprises.

5. Strengthening work to support enterprise.

The priorities in the modes of denationalization of property are being changed. Particular attention will be given to transferring it to private ownership irrespective of the sphere of activity and area of industry the enterprise is in.

The sale of plots of land for building centers of trade and services will be extended. Plots of land will be given on long term leases for building offices, housing and small enterprises, shops and centers of services in order to develop international business in the towns. Auctions and bids will be held to transfer agricultural land for permanent use with the right of inheritance.

In accordance with the law on natural resources, a system for the economic appraisal of natural resources is being introduced and questions of granting concessions to mine mineral resources are being worked out.

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Special attention is given to the real estate and securities markets. Special emphasis is being put on forming secondary markets. The sale of property of enterprises which close down, including bankrupts, will be carried out exclusively on an auction and contested basis. Investment companies and funds, shops for selling securities, a clearing and agent network and advertisement firms will be formed at accelerated rates in order to create a stock market infrastructure. The formation of these structures is intended to create freedom of choice for small investors and lessen the extent of their risk and losses from possible ineffective investments. This will allow the non-working money of the population to be attracted into the sphere of shares investment.

In 1995 support for enterprises in the post-privatization period will be considerably strengthened. The amount of money for crediting new owners will be increased. State investment programs for developing peasant farms are being worked out and the participation of foreign investors in agricultural production is planned.

The sale of transport into private ownership will be carried out on a large scale. The mass privatization of tourist complexes by attracting foreign capital will begin.

The process of privatization in all industries as before will be accompanied by a system of certain privileges for the working collective and guarantees for socially vulnerable workers. Measures for entrepreneurs to create new jobs will be encouraged.

Telecommunications and computer systems will be consistently introduced with the aim of accelerating the circulation of money and securities, and of providing prompt and good communications between enterprises and for attracting foreign businessmen to the republic.

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Armenia

Karabakh 'President' Appoints Defense Minister

NC0901190095 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Robert Kocharyan signed a decree on 9 January creating a Defense Ministry of the NKR.

Major General Samuel Papayan has been appointed the NKR's first defense minister with another decree of the NKR president. Until recently, Papayan was the commander of the NKR Defense Army.

Justice Ministry Applies for Banning of ARF

LD0901183495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1728 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, Jan 9 (Interfax)—The Armenian Justice Ministry applied to the Supreme Court Monday [9 January] to ban the republic's biggest opposition party, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation [ARF] Dashnaktsutyun.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan had signed a decree to temporarily stop the party's activities on December 28 1994. The president accused Dashnaktsutyun of involvement in narcotrafficking, political killings and espionage.

Supreme Court First Deputy Chairman Ovanes Nersisyan told Interfax that the final decision on the case will be made "by a Supreme Court Collegium meeting in two days."

In addition, Dashnaktsutyun is blamed for enlisting Iranian, Greek, Lebanese, Canadian and other citizens in its main bodies despite a national law forbidding such practices.

In the meantime, the party published a statement in Yerevan Monday to describe the presidential decree as "intentional aggravation of the internal political situation in the country."

The document stipulates that "every day the ruling group impedes and makes impossible free party activities in Armenia."

A spokesman for the Dashnaktsutyun bureau, member of the party's faction in the Armenian parliament, Ruben Akopyan, said that the party's property was being "squandered while being represented as confiscation."

Akopyan said his party will issue leaflets as the authorities closed down its newspaper.

Decree Suspending ARF Activity Said 'Dangerous Precedent'

NC0901155495 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1619 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On January 5 the Republican Head-Office of the Ramkavar Azatakan (Liberal-Democratic) Party made a statement, according to which "the presidential decree on temporary suspension of the activities of ARF [Armenian Revolutionary Federation]—Dashnaktsutyun creates a dangerous precedent and can undermine the international reputation of Armenia as well as principles of lawful state and democracy and cause aggravation of already tense social and political atmosphere in the Republic, which meets neither authorities' nor publicity's interests. Lawenforcement agencies have the right to investigate the activities of any organization within the law in force, and in case of availability of significant evidence submit the case to the court."

It is also stated that "the Armenian Ramkavar Azatakan Party condemns seizure of power by non-constitutional methods, establishment of any secret services, drug trafficking, political terror and espionage in economic, military and other structures of own people and country. At the same time the Party considers that accusations of state treason brought against any political organization and its punishment must be based on the law in force and presumption of innocence must be taken into account."

The Ramkavar-Azatakan Party considers that the President's decree was adopted in violation of the Armenian law on public and political organizations, in compliance with which the right to suspend the activities of any organization is the authority of the Armenian Supreme Court and must be applied only after an appropriate request from the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice. However, only a day after presidential decree had been published, Ministry of Justice submitted its request to the Supreme Court. Therefore, the decree by the President predetermined the outcome.

Similar statement was made by the Central Office of the Ramkavar Azatakan Party in diaspora.

Azerbaijan

Georgian Group Tells Speaker of Trip to Iran

NC0901163795 Baku TURAN in English 1438 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 6, TURAN—"Results of our meetings in Tehran were better than we expected," speaker of Azerbaijan's Parliament was told by head of Georgian delegation, Speaker of Georgian Parliament Vakhtang Goguadze. It was an official visit of Georgian parliamentaries to Iran where they had negotiations with Iranian leadership. According to official information the parties discussed the issues of expansion the parliamentary connections. But some diplomatic sources told TURAN that Georgian delegation was looking for the ways of solution of their economic problems, and first of all the energy problems. The parliamentaries told Rasul Guliyev about their agreement with Iran concerning shipment.

As Azerbaijan, Georgia is also going to settle some of its transport problems not only through territory of Russia,

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Tbilisi intends to solve the issue on construction the gas pipeline from Iran to Georgia only through the territory of Azerbaijan.

Kazimirov Notes Conditions for Peacekeeping To Begin

NC0901163595 Baku TURAN in English 1438 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 6, TURAN—"In the near future acting Chairman of the OSCE [Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, CSCE], Laslo Kovach, will appoint representatives from Sweden and Russia co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Conference", special representative of Russia's President on the talks about Nagorno-Karabakh, Vladimir Kazimirov, told TURAN.

For the beginning of the OSCE peace-keeping operation in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone, it is necessary, first of all, to conclude Major Political Agreement on cessation of armed conflict, Kazimirov says. The next condition is adoption of appropriate resolutions of the UN SC. "Moreover, we have to settle the issues concerning operation's planning, its financing and duration", he mentioned. Kazimirov mentioned that without agreement of all warring parties for the operation, its beginning is impossible. "It is stipulated that the warring parties must address acting Chairman through the co-Chairmen of the Minsk Conference and only after that the OSCE Permanent Council can adopt the resolution on dispatching of the OSCE multinational forces to the conflict region," he said.

The share of participation of the OSCE-members in the Minsk Conference will be discussed in Vienna by High Level Plan Group, which has been creating presently. "The share of the OSCE-member states in the peace-keeping forces is more convenient to define in numbers of units than in percents. For example, one battalion from this or that state, one company from another state and so on", Kazimirov said.

Views on Chechnya Impact on Karabakh Problem

NC0901154095 Baku TURAN in English 1541 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 5, TURAN—"The less conflicts, the easier to settle each conflict separately. It is natural that conflict situations, which arisen in other regions, do not help to settle the Karabakh problem", special representative of Russian President, Vladimir Kazimirov, said, asked by TURAN's correspondent how events in Chechnya can influence on Russia's peace-keeping role in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict settlement.

Kazimirov says that there are no grounds to doubt of Russia's peaceful disposition and its disinterested concern about restoration of peace in neighbouring with it republics. "Russia's peacemakership in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict settlement began in 1991 and since that time none of peace-keepers but Russia was so consistent in achievement of cease-fire and stoppage of bloodshed in the region", he mentioned.

Asking why cannot Russia, holding Chechen's crisis up as an example, show its ability to settle any problems by peaceful political means, Vladimir Kazimirov said: "Over the past three years all ways to peaceful settlement have been opened and if they are not used, the Russian leadership does not bear responsibility for that". However, Vladimir Kazimirov evaded the question "Why didn't Moscow react on Jokhar Dudayev's proposal to begin political negotiations without preliminary terms?" He also could not answer the following question "Why doesn't Russia use the very methods and means, which it recommends to its neighbours, in particular to Azerbaijan, for settlement of their internal problems?".

Baku Denies Mercenaries Involved in Chechnya

LD0801192495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Jan 8 (INTERFAX)—A spokesman for the Azeri National Security Ministry denied in an interview with Interfax Moscow's report about the involvement of Azeri mercenaries in the hostilities in Chechnya on the side of Dudayev formations, as well as on some support, including military, to the Dudayev regime. "This information is groundless," he told Interfax on Sunday [8 January].

The spokesman said that during the recent contacts between leaders of the Azeri National security Ministry and the border troops department of this Caucasian republic, and leaders of corresponding departments of Russia, the Russian side confirmed that it has no facts on coming military cargoes or mercenaries from Azerbaijan.

Earlier Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov told Interfax that accusations against Azerbaijan on the republic's connection with the developments in Chechnya "are groundless". The minister said that "similar insinuations cannot affect the foreign policy of Azerbaijan which is aimed at the rapprochement with Russia and at further development of bilateral relations."

Report on Dudayev Going to Turkey 'Idle Fancy'

NC0901163695 Baku TURAN in English 1438 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 6, TURAN—On January 5 Armenian SNARK agency distributed the information that Jokhar Dudayev intends to leave for Turkey through Azerbaijan and the plane belonging to Turkey's air forces is allegedly awaiting for Dudayev in Baku's airport. At the same time SNARK agency reports that 30 Azeri volunteers died in Chechnya and 13 of them (members of "Boz Gurd" [Gray Wolves] party) have been delivered to Baku.

"Information of Armenian SNARK agency that the plane of Turkey's air forces is waiting for Jokhar Dudayev in

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Baku's Bina airport to take him out to Turkey is groundless and open provocation", Turkey's Deputy Ambassador, Vural Altay, commented on the statement of Yerevan's SNARK agency.

"Turkey's plane of air forces in Baku's airport is an idle fancy of Armenian journalists and those who supply them with such information", press-service of the Ministry of National Security commented on the statement of SNARK. The same source reports that deliveries of corpses of Azeris from Chechnya is also a fable. Up to now Russia's official bodies did not distribute such information, Ministry of National Security reports.

State Adviser, Gabil Huseynli, mentioned that "distribution of such information can be interpreted as an ideological diversion aimed at breaking of Russian-Azerbaijani relations".

Azerbaijani Muslims' Concern Over Chechnya Viewed

NC0901153095 Baku TURAN in English 1333 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 7, TURAN—"Azeri Muslim are anxious about bloody events in Chechnya, deaths of hundreds of innocent people, destruction of cities, settlements and, especially, mosques", the leader of Spiritual Department of Caucasian Muslim, Sheikh-ul-Islam Haji Allahshukyur Pashazade told TURAN's correspondent.

Sheikh-ul-Islam Pashazade mentioned that military activities, during which citizens of Dagestan and Ingush villages have died, cannot be justified by the necessity of "restoration of order in Chechnya". He said that this fact makes us think that Muslim appear to be helpless and suffer from the major conflicts on the globe, as well as on the territory of the former USSR.

Allahshukyur Pashazade mentioned that there is no such a conflict, which cannot be settled peacefully, since the way to peace and kindness is always opened.

Allahshukyur Pashazade said though he appealed to Russian Government and Patriarch Aleksii II to settle Chechen's conflict peacefully, bombardments still continue and people die.

Commanders Warn Cease-Fire Shaky on Armenian Border

NC0901221295 Baku TURAN in English 1511 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 9 (TURAN)—Last night units of Armenian troops forced crossing of Injachay river and reached Tap village, a Commander of units of Azeri army located in Geranboy [Nagorno-Karabakh] region (northern section of Armenian-Azerbaijani front) told Turan. He said that over the past month, having violated terms of truce, Armenian troops have been moving 100-200 metres a day towards Azeri positions. "Presently distance between our and their troops is 40-50 metres", the same source says. The commander of the Azeri unit mentioned that activities of Armenian troops in Geranboy direction of the front became more active. They transported there military vehicles and life force. The Azeri commander also said that ten days ago they seized two Armenia's intelligence agents, which confessed that "by January 25, 1994 Armenian military leadership will make a surprise for Geranboy region, which is proclaimed by Armenians as Northern Artsakh and representative of "Nagorno Karabakh's President" to that region is appointed.

Commanders of Azeri army think that all these facts show that in the near future Armenian troops can launch another offensive in order to seize Geranboy (former Shaumyan) region of Azerbaijan. Truce agreement on Armenian-Azerbaijani front was concluded last May.

Twenty-Five Opposition Groups Set Up Round Table

NC0901145895 Baku TURAN in English 1333 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 7, TURAN—Today session devoted to foundation of "Round Table" took place in the headquarters of "Baku and Baku's villages" Union on the level of Board of Chairmen, told TURAN's correspondent. In result 25 political parties and public organisations of the country signed a statement on foundation "Round Table". In conformity with a document the Round Table is a co-ordinating body of political and social organisations, created for joint efforts to take Azerbaijan out of the social, economic, political and military crisis. The Round Table will also promote creation of conditions for real democratic parliamentary elections. A decision on the activity of Round Table was adopted.

The possibility of working out and conclusion of Agreement on civil solidarity will be also discussed at Round Table session. The Round Table adopted a decision on the events in Chechnya and condemned the aggression of Russia against Chechnya. "We condemn mass violation of human rights, accompanied by the actions of Russian army, violation of international norms and demand Russia to stop bloodshed in Chechnya. The parties entering the Round Table, except the parties "Yeni [New] Azerbaijan", Azerbaijan's Social Democratic Party and "Alliance for Azerbaijan" adopted a decision on the trial violations on Ganja events June 4 1993. They demand not to use the trial for political purposes.

As was earlier reported, on November 12, 1994 "Baku and Baku's villages" forwarded a proposal to found Round Table and conclude agreement on civil solidarity among political parties and leadership of the country. However, the session of Council of Chairmen December 17, 1994, which scheduled to initial the document approved during the previous sessions, was broken by the police. Law enforcement bodies said that due to the state of emergency, the Commandant does not permit to conduct the session.

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Deputy's Statement to Parliament Slams Ganja Trial

NC0901160095 Baku TURAN in English 1438 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 6 TURAN—"The trial on June events of 1993 in Ganja did not lay bare the truth and also falsificated the investigation materials", reads the statement of Deputy Matlab Mutalimov addressed to the Chairman of the Parliament, Rasul Guliyev.

Deputy Mutalimov, who was the Chairman of Parliamentary Commission for investigation of Ganja's events, thinks that "numeral juridical violations and juggle with facts have been observed during the investigation and the trial. Even the former Prosecutor General, Ali Omarov, ordered to keep into custody People's Deputies, Isa Gambar, Ihtiyar Shirinov and Sulhedin Akperov, without permission of the Parliament", Mutalimov mentions.

The activities of Omarov and other officials of the Republic caused damage to the country, exerted influence on socio-political situation in Azerbaijan and favoured military defeats of the front, Mutalimov considers.

He offered to the speaker of Parliament to hear the detailed report about June events of 1993 in Ganja on the next session of the Milli Mejlis and to give the investigation materials to reinvestigation of an independent prosecutor. "If take into account that the investigation was not objective, the main culprits of events did not face the court, deputies were arrested without Parliament's permission, I suggest initiation of criminal proceedings against the former Prosecutor General, Ali Omarov", Mutalimov said.

There is no reply to Mutalimov's message. However, the next session of the Milli Mejlis was postponed until January 10, 1995. As was earlier reported, the court must pass the verdict on Ganja's events on January 9 at 14.00 o'clock.

Court Decides Ganja Case Needs More Investigation

NC0901221395 Baku TURAN in English 1511 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 9 (TURAN)—"I think that there are serious contradictions between the facts submitted to trial by the prosecutor and the facts revealed during the trial. In this respect the Court decided to return the case for additional investigation," stated at today's trial on Ganja events June 1993 judge Ogtay Magsudov.

Magsudov said that proceeding was taken against Suret Guseynov, as 709 military brigade headed by him rebelled in June 1993 in Ganja. Earlier a military prosecutor had taken a proceeding on the fact of coup d'etat made by supporters of ex-premier in October 1994 in Ganja.

A final sentence was expected today. A Committee for Rights of the Accused on Ganja events June 4 1993 stated on the eve that a Court has already passed a sentence on imprisonment the representatives of Elchibey's government from four to seven years under the pressure of official circles. Thus, process which seemed already to be completed and the results of which were known is again on the start position.

Prior to the statement of judge there took place a picket of 3,000 supporters of the accused, they blocked a building where the trial was taking place. They scan slogans supporting the accused and were singing the hymn of Azerbaijan.

It is the second return of the case for additional investigation. First time it took place in summer last year, when ex-premier Suret Guseynov insisted that "the trial was not objective and had anti-Guseynov's character."

Today decision of the Court became possible due to the pressure of the publicity and also international sources on the official Baku.

"Final assess to the Court's decision can be given after detailed acquaintance of the decision, but one can say that it is some retreat of leading circles from their initial position, as it was known about the existence of political order for our arrest," says ex-Speaker of Azeri parliament, who is also one of the accused on the case Isa Gambar. According to him, the authorities understood the reverse effect of the decision of the Court prepared in advance and that is why decided to return case for additional investigation. "Today's decision of Court means continuation of political games around the events of June 4," noted Isa Gambar.

Georgia

Ukraine's Kuchma Arrives for Official Visit

LD0901141395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1408 GMT 9 Jan 95

[By UKRINFORM for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi January 9 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma arrived in Tbilisi on an official visit on Monday [9 January].

At Tbilisi airport, he was met by Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia and parliament speaker Vakhtang Goguadze.

Kuchma and Shevardnadze had a one-to-one meeting. Simultaneously, the working groups of the two countries were meeting to discuss bilateral issues.

The Ukrainian and Georgian official delegations led by Kuchma and Shevardnadze were due to hold talks later today. The two sides are also expected to sign inter-state agreements and treaties.

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After the talks, the leaders of the two countries will hold a joint news conference.

Report on Kuchma's Visit

LD1001110995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the first day of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's official visit to the Republic of Georgia yesterday, during the talks which proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the two heads of state examined the state of and prospects for the development of relations between the two countries, issues of settling conflicts in CIS countries, and topical international problems. This is what Vitaliy Naumenko, a special Ukrainian radio correspondent, reported by telephone from the Georgian capital Tbilisi:

[Naumenko] Ukraine's sphere of interests is above all in the area of the former [Soviet] Union and my visit to Georgia is one of the steps which really confirm this, Leonid Kuchma noted at a joint news conference with Eduard Shevardnadze, leader of the Georgian state, which logically completed the intense day of talks on 9 January, and the signed agreements and accords.

Leonid Kuchma and Eduard Shevardnadze informed journalists that the talks proceeded in an atmosphere of full mutual understanding and demonstrated the homogeneity of the sides' approaches to practically all problems, including domestic problems. This concerns above all reform of the national economies, or international life. This concerns above all settlement of the conflict in Chechnya—by exclusively peaceful means, Leonid Kuchma stressed.

This strategic idea of the Ukrainian president of a peaceful way of resolving armed conflicts exclusively at the negotiating table was also reflected in the declaration on the prospects for the development of cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of Georgia and joint approaches to issues of international relations. Eduard Shevardnadze called the signing of this declaration the main result of the first day of the Ukrainian president's state visit.

The economic tendency of the package of documents which were signed draws attention to itself. As well as the declaration, seven economic agreements were signed on industrial cooperation, savings and mutual protection of investments, free trade, and a protocol to the agreement on developing trade and economic cooperation between the governments of Ukraine and Georgia of 6 August 1992. This is about supplying products and goods in 1995.

The idea of constructing a pipeline from Azerbaijan through Georgia and then on to Europe arouses considerable interest, Eduard Shevardnadze informed those present.

The Ukrainian president's state visit to the Republic of Georgia will continue today. In particular, a conversation between Leonid Kuchma and the Most Holy and Blessed Patriarch of all Georgia His Holiness Ilya II, a meeting with representatives of the intelligentsia and young students, and a meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora are planned, and also an almost hour-long private conversation between Leonid Kuchma and Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian parliament and head of the Georgian state, the second in two days, which evokes journalists' increased interest.

This is Vitaliy Naumenko reporting from Tbilisi for Ukrainian radio's news service.

Friendship Treaty Signed

LD0901210995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2030 GMT 9 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 9 Jan—A treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual aid between Georgia and Ukraine was signed in Tbilisi today by Eduard Shevardnadze and Leonid Kuchma, who is in the republic on an official visit. The heads of state reported this at a joint news conference which they held late this evening. They reported that a declaration was also signed on the prospects for the development of cooperation between Georgia and Ukraine and on common approaches in international policy, as well as a number of documents relating to trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

E. Shevardnadze and L. Kuchma stressed that the documents signed are a continuation and a strengthening of the age-old traditions of friendship and brotherhood between the peoples of Georgia and Ukraine.

The Ukrainian president's visit to Georgia will continue on Tuesday.

Cabinet of Ministers To Help Chechen Refugees

LD0901174595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian at 1500 GMT on 9 Jan reports that the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers adopted a decision to render help to Chechen refugees who are still arriving in Georgia. The Cabinet of Ministers ordered relevant bodies to help find temporary shelter in various rayons of Georgia for hundreds of refugees and secure food supplies for them.

The Georgian Cabinet of Ministers condemned the actions committed by groups of Chechen militants by saying they had followed in the footsteps of Abkhaz separatists and that it did not reflect the true aspirations of the neighborly Chechen people.

Shevardnadze Weekly Interview

LD0901145695 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0627 GMT 9 Jan 95

[Regular weekly interview with Georgian State Council chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani—live]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Oniani] Good morning. We are presenting a radio interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state. Batono Eduard, while analyzing the economic developments of the past week you will probably touch upon your edict on setting up a commission led by the Georgian prime minister to supervise the proper and purpose-oriented distribution of the loans received by the state. German Chancellor Kohl sent you a letter last week which, along with other issues, mentioned Germany's financial aid to Georgia. There was a lot of aid and loans before but they sometimes did not reach the correct recipients or were not used properly. Do you not think that the edict was needed long ago and it should have been issued earlier?

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. Good morning. Speaking of loans, I would like to say that this has not been the first attempt. There were other attempts before, too. A commission was set up earlier to determine branches and projects which were to receive credits we received from various sources, including the West.

I should tell you that the loan received from Germany has not been distributed yet. This does not depend on us only. There were certain obstacles in Germany, too. Not a single German mark [DM] has been distributed out of the DM30 million allocated to Georgia during my visit to Germany. The loan is supposed to be used in agriculture and that is why a special commission has been set up to consider the issue—although the commission will deal with other loans, too.

You presumably remember that I recently told the parliament that a full and detailed report on how foreign loans has been distributed and utilized by the authorities, ministries, other institutions or rayons must be submitted to the parliament for consideration. In case there are certain violations, those responsible should naturally be made answerable. [passage omitted]

First, I would like to speak about the completion of the so-called non-deficit budget for the fourth quarter. You remember that it was not considered serious to presume that Georgia was able to have a non-deficit budget even for one quarter only. [passage omitted]. Our experts, along with their foreign colleagues, assumed that they would regard it as an achievement if the budget were completed by about 50 percent. This would be regarded as a certain improvement of the Georgian economic and financial development. Although the final figures have not been calculated yet, it is estimated that the fourth quarter budget, I mean its revenue aspect, has been fulfilled by 85 to 90 percent. This means that a trend for overall improvement can be observed in Georgia. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] We shall presumably return to the subject of economics later. Now, another question. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma is arriving in Georgia on a two-day visit today. This visit can be regarded in a special way in the wake of the Budapest summit and against the background of the current developments in the territory of the former Soviet Union. And, besides, Ukraine has recently joined the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. What is your assessment of this?

[Shevardnadze] There will be many talks and reports about Mr. Kuchma's visit. I would like to say in general that this is a major event in the lives of the two nations. This is the first visit by the democratically elected president of free and independent Ukraine to independent and democratic Georgia. Although our relations go back for centuries. I will not elaborate on the topic.

Our relations have been developing perfectly. You must remember that we signed a friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance treaty in Kiev. Ukraine is the only country we have this kind of treaty with. This also demonstrates the exclusive nature of the relations the two countries enjoyed historically and are enjoying in present circumstances. We can presume that the negotiations with an extremely authoritative top-level delegation will be of major importance for Georgia, in particular, and probably for Ukraine, too. Georgia will welcome Mr. Kuchma as a merited leader and a merited representative of fraternal great people, a great nation and a great state.

As for Ukraine's joining the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty, I can say that this was an extremely difficult and also an extremely wise and brave decision taken by the Ukrainian leadership and its president. This was yet another step taken toward not only reducing but also finally eliminating nuclear arsenals on our planet, the movement that began in the early eighties. Ukraine received more secure guarantees than the nuclear rockets and aircraft carrying such rockets stationed in its territory.

[Oniani] Do you mean the countries who declared themselves guarantors of Ukraine?

[Shevardnadze] Certainly. I mean guarantees from these countries and generally from the whole world community. Only prescient and courageous politicians could relinquish a possible status of a nuclear State thus creating a strong incentive to disarmament and security. You know what the status of a state possessing nuclear arms means. It means much. I reiterate that great courage, as well as major prescience, was needed to adopt a decision like this. Ukraine has consolidated its international status, strengthened its influence in Europe as well as in the world and taken a place it deserved as a great state, or, as they say, a superpower.

[Oniani] Now allow me to return to economics, namely the budget. The parliamentary majority is assembling today and the parliament is going to discuss the budget later this week. Do you think the issue of approval or rebutting the budget is linked to the idea of establishing a coalition government? This idea has been circulating rather actively within the parliament. And will you please state your own stance over the issue of a coalition government?

[Shevardnadze] In fact, there is nothing deplorable in the existence of an idea like this. The aim of the Parliament is

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to seek more rational approaches and rational ways toward a better government and better authorities, including a better parliament in future. However, I do not think this idea is real at the moment. But what is actually a coalition government? This is a government which includes representatives of various parties. There already are several such representatives on rather significant posts. Two vice-premiers, chairman of the Control Chamber, the chairman of the committee for refugees and displaced people, etc. represent various parties. I do not understand what else could a coalition mean. If there should be another basis for this, then we will have to give special consideration to the issue. I still believe that professional skills of the people included in the government and supervising the activities of the ministries rather than a coalition character of the government should be a principle to be considered, especially in the current circumstances in Georgia. I do not rule out that we will return to the idea in future.

As far as the budget is concerned, I think it unacceptable to link the issue to the budget. If we do not approve the budget, we will lose time. The failure to approve the budget will impede the trends towards strengthening the coupon. We were already able to observe first symptoms of strengthening the coupon last week. The failure to approve the budget will indeed slacken the pace of the reforms we have launched and will diminish the government's care about revenues. [passage omitted].

In fact, calls for the actions against the approval of the budget are calls for fresh instability, especially in economics and finance. [passage omitted].

[Oniani] Last week, you met with Ernst Muhlermann, chairman of the foreign affairs department of the Swiss parliament, who was in Georgia on a three-day visit. Your conversation dealt with topics of major significance for Georgia, such as Georgia's admission to the European Council with guest status; the appointment of a Swiss ambassador to Transcaucasia with headquarters in Tbilisi; relations with Switzerland, especially Swiss assistance in developing our energy system, forming the army and reforming the police forces, and so on. You said something like this: we want relations with Switzerland and we are knocking at the European Council's door; as far as the ambassador to the Caucasus is concerned, this is an enviable thing; the Caucasus will grow calm soon and this will open good prospects, including economically. However, the world talks more about the prospects of a Caucasian war at the moment. That is probably why the West still expresses more support toward Yeltsin's policy, despite its generally sharp and critical stance. I mean recent events in Chechnya. How would you assess the events today?

[Shevardnadze] First of all, I would like to say that our relations with Switzerland and especially the European Council are of vital importance for Georgia. Being within the European Council, working there and gaining experience there is a very good school for a country in the process of democratic development. It is also important to have relations with Switzerland at the level of exchanging diplomatic representatives, ambassadors. That is why I welcomed sincerely the wish expressed at our meeting.

As far as current events in Chechnya are concerned, no one should be surprised by my frequent comments on what is happening in the region. We are especially sensitive to the issue because of clear and fully understandable reasons. However paradoxical my statement may seem, all that is happening in Chechnya is far from being unexpected. I would not exaggerate if I say that my warnings, warnings of a man driven to despair, made before the Sukhumi events and during my stay in Sukhumi and even after that about a danger of aggressive separatism, remained a voice crying in the wilderness.

The tragedy of Chechnya originated in Abkhazia. Every sober politician and analyst will reach this conclusion. Our grief over the death of innocent people is overwhelming, no matter what nationality they are, Chechens, Russians or any other. They are our neighbors and our brothers.

Georgia has already sheltered hundreds of families driven out from Chechnya despite the fact that we ourselves have hard times and are starving. [Passage omitted]

I would like everyone to hear my statement once again: No one can stop Russia fighting for its state integrity. To fight with the literal meaning of the word. The Russian state has to fight for its integrity in any case no matter how delayed or premature this fight is. Unless Russia eradicates separatism, while respecting human rights and protecting democratic principles, it will disintegrate. It will disintegrate as a state. This will be the repetition of Yugoslavia's tragedy on a gigantic scale. Countries whose politicians base their assessment of the events on double standards will be involved in the tragedy. One standard for Chechnya, another for Abkhazia in the past. I believe, this is something that requires a second thought. These are my views and my forecast, if you will.

The Chechnya epic should end in the very near future. I believe that it will. Democracy will by all means triumph in Chechnya, too, pardon my extremely pompous words. I am personally familiar with many political and public figures, scientists and others in Chechnya who are able to contribute to establishing peace in the Caucasus. The end of the events in Chechnya means that a big Caucasian war will be prevented, the war you spoke about and the war discussed widely in the West. Incidentally, I have just received a report from Kote Gabashvili [Georgia's ambassador to Germany] saying that warnings given by the Georgian leaders on the issue are frequently remembered in many TV programs in Germany.

As soon as the threat of a big Caucasian war is prevented, the final stage of settling conflicts in the Caucasus will begin. This is my vision.

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Estonia

IMF Grants $16.9 Million Loan

LD1001093495 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0700 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The International Monetary Fund has allocated a loan of $16.9 million to Estonia to help develop its market economy. A statement made on the occasion praises Estonia for its successful economic reforms and low inflation.

German MPs Urge Baltics' Integration Into Western Security

LD0901175095 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Wolfgang von Stetten, the leader of the German-Baltic group of the German Parliament and a member of the Bundestag legal commission, today distributed a press release, which, referring to the events in Chechnya, calls for a rapid integration of the Baltic states into European security systems: This is the only way to prevent these states falling victims to Russia's new power ambitions in the Baltic Sea region from St. Petersburg to Koenigsberg [Kaliningrad]. The Russian near-abroad doctrine is now more acute and dangerous than ever before.

The German-Baltic parliamentary group insistently calls upon Estonia and Latvia to recognize currently existing borders, however painful it may be, in order to deprive Russia of the possibility of playing the card of border disputes threatening its security.

Defense Plans Updated Using Chechen Conflict Data

WS0901160895 Tallinn BNS in English 1128 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 09, BNS—The Estonian Defense Ministry is thoroughly analyzing the Chechen conflict and hopes to use the conclusions in the interests of a more effective defense concept, Minister Enn Tupp said.

"There are many things we can learn from the Chechen conflict," Tupp told BNS on Monday [9 January].

One of the lessons already learned is that the country must be able to give information to the outside "under any situation and very quickly," the minister said. It is also important that Estonia have a sufficient supply of ammunition and that the supplies were not concentrated in any particular place. It is also important to avoid leaks of information from the defense forces, he said.

The minister said a strong and well-armed Defense League paramilitary organization was vital for ensuring the country's security.

"Data about members and weaponry of the Defense League must remain secret to our enemies. Also big ammunition supplies must be created under the Defense League and spread out all over Estonia. It is always difficult to fight an enemy that you don't know," Tupp said.

The Estonian minister said it was "surprising" how much ammunition the Chechens had and how much force was Russia putting into use in its bid to conquer the small nation.

"The Chechen experience also shows how much time it takes before there comes an international reaction," Tupp added.

Tupp said Estonia was getting information about the developments in Chechnya mainly from the news nedia. "In any case it's clear that Russia in its military campaign in Chechnya is violating international agreements, including the Vienna convention. Under that document Russia, for instance, must give account of major troop movements, which it has failed to do," Tupp said.

Russ'an Parties Form Pre-Election Coalition

WS0901160395 Tallinn BNS in English 1128 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 09, BNS—The political parties of Russian-speakers in Estonia set up a coalition late last week for the March 5 general elections under the name "Our Home is Estonia!"

The decision was formally adopted by the councils of the Estonian People's Assembly Party and the Russian Party of Estonia on Friday [6 January]. Also the Russian People's Party of Estonia, not formally registered so far, has declared its support for the new coalition.

The agreement on setting up the coalition was reached at talks among the three parties during the past week, Aleksei Semyonov of the People's Assembly Party said on Sunday.

The 20 first placings in the draft ticket of the coalition are occupied by 12 candidates from the People's Assembly Party, six from the Russian Party in Estonia, and three from the Russian People's Party, Semyonov said. Also financing of the coalition's campaign takes place according to the 4:2:1 scheme, he added.

Voicing disagreement with the principles of the coalition's power scheme was the leader of the Russian People's Party, Aleksei Zybin, who turned down such sharing out of placings on the ticket as unjust. Zybin told BNS his party was opposed to sharing out the placings of candidates according to the size of each party's contribution to funding the commom campaign.

Speaking about the three parties' positions on political issues, Zybin said all were at one over the common aim of creating a law-based state. "Either must everybody be resettled at the government's expense, or everybody must be given citizenship," Zybin said with reference to Estonia's Russian-speakers.

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But Zybin, who has defined himself as leftist, added that prospective MP's from the Russian-speaking coalition were likely to vote differently from each other in the parliament on all other issues apart from the ethnic ones. "And there's no point in making a tragedy of it," the leader of the unregistered Russian People's Party said.

Blue Party Refuses 'To Combine Forces' With Reform Party

WS1001115595 Tallinn BNS in English 1631 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 09, BNS—The Estonian Blue Party of artists and intellectuals is not going to combine forces with central bank governor Siim Kallas's Reform Party ahead of the March 5 general elections, party officials said on Monday [9 January].

The Blue Party refused to accept the conditions offered by the Reform Party at the final round of talks on Monday, Reform Party's Aarne Veedla told BNS. "We agreed, however, to remain friends also in the future," Veedla added.

Neeme Kuningas, chairman of the Blue Party, said his party refused to accept the number and placings offered to its candidates in the common ticket. "We wanted to have 22 places in the ticket, and with this the Reform Party agreed," Kuningas said. But he added that his party also wanted to have more than one of its candidates among the ticket's top ten.

Kuningas said the Blue Party would go to the elections alone, with more than 30 candidates running on its list.

Lithuania

Brazauskas Comments on Security Moves, Chechnya

LD1001114295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1103 GMT 10 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 10 (INTERFAX)—The Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has declared that his country does not have the aim of joining an aggressive military alliance directed against anyone or wish anything bad to its neighbors. In a late Monday [9 January] night interview with Lithuanian Television he stressed that the process of expanding NATO is difficult, lengthy, but it continues, which is hopeful.

Brazauskas said Lithuania seeks firm security guarantees and will continue the search following the road taken by other European countries.

Speaking of the Chechen conflict Brazauskas called for looking at the matter from different sides. He regretted the death of people, including women and children, and favored stability in Russia itself.

On the possibility of Lithuania recognizing Chechnya as an independent state Brazauskas pointed to the reserved approach of influential countries to the matter and said that important realities should not be overlooked.

Military Transit, Chechnya Policies Criticized

WS1001115895 Tallinn BNS in English 1342 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 09, BNS—Lithuanian opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis on Monday [9 January] again sharply criticized the government's policy with respect to the war in Chechnya and Russian military transit through Lithuania.

Does Lithuania intend to consent to the role of "serving the Russian military for the sake of doubtful trade partnership with an unreliable partner?" Landsbergis asked at a news conference.

The opposition leader said threat arises from Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius' "inclination to improvisations" in foreign policy matters. Landsbergis reminded reporters about earlier statements in which he says the premier made but did not keep promises with regard to the political treaty with Poland, the Adutiskis railroad station dispute with Belarus and sea border talks with Latvia.

And now that Virgilijus Bulovas, head of the working group for talks with the CIS, has expressed his opposition to a military transit agreement with Russia, warning Lithuania may be "drawn into Russia's wars against its own will," there is threat that the negotiation team may be "reorganized," the opposition leader said.

In his opinion, the government should clearly state with regard to military transit that Lithuania has established its own internal transit rules. But, "if there isn't enough gunpowder," Landsbergis said, Lithuania should tell Russia that the present moment is "least favorable" to negotiate a separate agreement, and should suggest to put off the process for at least half a year.

The opposition leader pointed out that Russia is very unreliable as an economic partner and also added: "Maybe some group of Mr. Slezevicius' friends have been offered some privileges or millions in profit to sign this military transit treaty."

"What do we know—maybe the Slezevicius clan or the Brazauskas clan can get some special privileges ... Who will be the first to profit, what are the relations of lobbyist circles and groups? Because this could be the actual sale of Lithuania's sovereignty for money."

As regards Chechnya, Landsbergis suggested to check how the government fulfilled a resolution adopted by the parliament and how it kept its promise to send humanitarian aid to Chechens.

The opposition leader said the "essential moment of this year" will be Russia's turn to one or another side. Landsbergis said the "shade" of the policy carried by Russian President Boris Yeltsin differs completely from the image of a reformer created earlier.

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Landsbergis once again denounced Western countries for their policy with respect to the Russian-Chechen conflict. In his opinion, Western governments did not support Yeltsin as a democratic leader and a reformer, "because he should have been warned in time to forbear from acts of violence against Chechnya."

In a statement released Monday, Landsbergis indicated that Russia "rapidly develops toward the restoration of Soviet imperialism."

The opposition leader noted that by sending aid to Chechnya, Western nations will have to think sooner or later—"who did this." Landsbergis also urged countries which send aid to see that the means are not seized by the "experienced Russian militarism" suffering losses in Chechnya.

Security Denies Involvement in Ex-KGB General's Death

WS1001121595 Tallinn BNS in English 1829 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 09, BNS—Lithuanian security services denied Russia's claims that they may be related to the death of the former KGB chief in Lithuania.

The Russian newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA announced last Friday [6 January] that ex-KGB General Stanislav Tsaplin was found dead near the Moskva river Jan. 3.

In 1991, Tsaplin headed the Lithuanian branch of the Soviet security police and intelligence agency and before that was the first deputy head.

Russian authorities saw no reason to launch an investigation of Tsaplin's death, but KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, referring to sources in the Russian counter-intelligence service, said it strongly doubts that the ex-general died accidently.

Former Soviet intelligence chief, Leonid Shebarshin, told the newspaper that Tsaplin, 56, was on the "black list" of Lithuanian security services and even had to hide in remote parts of Russia.

Jurgis Jurgelis, head of the Lithuanian National Security Department, denied the claim, saying Lithuanian services have no relation whatsoever to Tsaplin's death.

Jurgelis said Lithuania needed the ex-general alive because he is believed to have known important facts about the failed January 1991 Soviet coup in Lithuania.

"We are a law enforcement but not a terrorist organization," Jurgelis told BNS, adding that actions suspected by the Russian newspaper would contradict the Lithuanian department's aims and methods.

Kestutis Betingis, chief prosecutor for crimes against the state, said Tsaplin was listed among other suspects in relation to the January 1991 coup attempt. Lithuania's request to extradite the ex-KGB general was turned down by Russian authorities like in all other cases, he said. Betingis assured that the Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office is not related to Tsaplin's death. In his opinion, forces in Russia may be pursuing certain aims by hinting about Lithuania's involvement in the case.

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